

HOME NEWS

Ulster council scheme put strain on 'loyalist' coalition

From Christopher Walker Belfast

Moves will be made this week to have the policy of immediate administrative devolution in the form of a county council-type administration adopted as the programme of the Official Unionist, Northern Ireland's largest single political grouping.

The scheme, first outlined last December by Mr James Moynihan, leader of the United Ulster Unionist MPs at Westminster, has represented the one serious possibility of achieving some political movement since the Convention collapsed.

The plan will be discussed at a special meeting of the party executive in Belfast on Friday. Political commentators believe there is a strong chance that it will be adopted, as it is supported by many in its support, including the Rev Martin Smyth, leader of the Orange Order.

It would involve the immediate establishment of a council at Stormont to handle exclusively administrative matters. It would function through a committee system. Supporters on the "loyalist" side see it as leading in the long term to wards a fully devolved local administration with legislative as well as administrative powers. If the official Unionists adopt

the scheme as policy, it could have serious repercussions for the three-year-old loyalist coalition.

The other constituent parties, the United Ulster Unionist Movement, led by Mr Ernest Balfour, and the Democratic Unionists, led by the Rev Ian Paisley, have rejected the plan. They regard it as a watering down of their repeated demands for a return to majority government of the type abolished in 1972 and see it as a way of avoiding power-sharing by the back door.

The administrative devolution alternative is certain to feature prominently at talks scheduled to take place this week at Stormont between the Official Unionists and Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

He will have separate talks with the mainly Roman Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party. Most of its leaders have reacted unfavourably to the plan.

Last night, detectives were trying to identify the bodies of two men found yesterday in the back seat of a car parked near a social club organized by the Ulster Defence Association in the Shankill Road district of Belfast. It is believed that the victims, whose bodies were badly charred, had been murdered and that the fire was an attempt to cover up evidence.

Tory idea for 'interim political forum'

By David Leigh Political Staff

Conservative proposals for a way forward from the political impasse in Northern Ireland were aired vaguely in London on Saturday by Mr Airey Neave, Tory spokesman on Ulster.

Ministers are responding tentatively to the idea of an "interim political forum". The Moynihan plan for a county council-type administration is also meeting a subdued response.

Mr Neave produced some criticisms of details of the British handling of the continuing violence and destruction in Northern Ireland which he addressed at a Conservative conference in London.

But he denied that Conservatives were seeking a military solution to the conflict. Last week he called for severe measures, including greater deployment of the Special Air Service Regiment, to bring about a year of victory over terrorism.

He repeated that in greater detail at the weekend, complaining that known IRA leaders

were not being arrested and that western newspapers were too "impartial" between terrorism and democracy.

But he emphasized that "democratic politics" had to be kept alive in Northern Ireland if paramilitary leaders and bully-boys were not to get stronger, setting back political progress for decades.

That is why the Conservative Party was considering plans for an interim political forum for Northern Ireland which we will discuss with the various political parties in the province.

What some Conservatives are anxious to see is a Council of State in Northern Ireland, made up of various politicians and representatives of interest groups. It would not be elected, but nominated by an independent person, and would consider Northern Ireland's internal secondary legislation.

Such a council would be a strictly interim affair, unconnected with any moves to administrative devolution. It would be designed to improve the delivery of public services, the government of Northern Ireland, as well as to nurture local politicians.

MP worried by drug-takers on US submarines

The Scottish National Party, whose policy is to rid Scotland of nuclear bases, said yesterday that it was worried by the disclosure that one of the United States Polaris missile-carrying submarines from the Holy Loch had drug-takers among its crew.

The concern was expressed by Mr Iain MacCormick, MP for Argyll and Bute, in his constituency.

Nine members of the crew of the nuclear submarine USS Casimir Pulaski, one of the Lafayette class of ballistic-missile-carrying submarines, have told their officers that they were "on pot". They are being sent back to the United States for medical treatment.

Mr MacCormick said yesterday that he would ask the United States naval authorities to make a thorough inquiry. Commander Gene Wentz, of the US Navy Headquarters, Europe, said that the nine men had been on soft drugs, mainly marijuana. They were in non-specialist jobs, with no possibility of access to the controls, the missiles, or the reactor.

Regional report The weekly "Regional report" will in future be published on Tuesdays, beginning tomorrow.

Union 'abuse of power' seen as threat to freedom

The communist infiltration of the Labour Party, the abuse of power by trade union leaders and the "excessive size of the state" were the three main threats to individual freedom in Britain, Mr Eileen Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds, said in London on Saturday.

He was speaking at a meeting on the defence of freedom organized by the conservative Political Centre, and referred to the Post Office workers' plan not to deliver post to South Africa for a week as an example of abuse of power by trade unions.

"Who is Tom Jackson of the



An etching of John Peel's grave, signed by the Cumberland artist, Joseph Simpson.

John Peel's grave desecrated

Anti-blood sport demonstrators were being sought by police yesterday after they desecrated the grave of John Peel. During the night they smashed a four-foot high headstone and threw a stuffed fox's head into the grave at Coldbeck, Cumberland.

A note was left in the grave saying: "John Peel, go blow on your horn until your face turns blue." The demonstrators said in a telephone call to the Press Association that they had thrown Peel's remains into a cesspit, but police said the bones had not been touched.

The caller said: "Something has got to be done to help foxes today, and this man killed hundreds of them."

Peel, a farmer, who was born in Caldbeck in 1776, was buried in St Kentigern's churchyard in 1854. He was immortalized in the song "Dye Ken John Peel" which was written by a friend, John Woodcock, Graves, the night before a hunt.

The incident brought many protests, including some from anti-blood sports campaigners who dissociated themselves from the affair.

The League Against Cruel Sports, said it dissociated itself from "this act of vandalism".

The Hunt Saboteurs' Association said: "Although we as an association cannot condone such actions, we consider the execution of mass fox killing as a barbaric and senseless act."

Peel's body was thrown from the seasonal digging out and killing of thousands of foxes after they have reached the sanctuary of their earth.

Peel's great grandson, Mr John Peel, aged 75, said: "It is a sad day for me. I should bring back the bitch." Mr Raymond Brooks-Ward, of the British Field Sports Society, said: "Our reaction to this is one of revulsion."

The Rev Colin Reid, said the grave, which is often visited by tourists, would be restored.

Prosecuting Mr Powell 'might make matters worse'

By a Staff Reporter

The repercussions of Mr Enoch Powell's latest remarks about immigration, with their prophecy of civil war in Britain, continued to reverberate all weekend, with pleas for and against his prosecution.

Mrs Maureen Colquhoun, the Tribune group MP who supported his views, was rebuked by Sidney Bidwell, Labour MP for Ealing, Southall, and a past chairman of the Tribune group. He said: "Enoch Powell, who has long been regarded in Parliament as up the pole on race relations matters, is a natural magnet for that element of British society which seeks to blame all its misdeeds on the presence of coloured people in our growing, multi-racial society."

Mr Bashir Maan, President of the Standing Conference of Pakistan Organizations in Britain, said: "Does she mean that Powell is right? If that is the case, she must be expelled from the Labour Party. There is no room for her in the socialist movement. She had better join the National Front," he said.

Mr David Lane, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, described Mr Powell's speech as "dangerous and deplorable. It is a destructive message of hatred that he is putting across. The effect of his latest outburst, as on previous occasions, can only be to increase tension, arouse fear, and stir up hatred."

An emergency meeting of the Standing Conference of Pakistan Organizations yesterday decided to seek compensation on whether it could bring a private prosecution against Mr Powell, and passed a resolution that the speech was "not only an insult to the minority communities, but also a danger poised to rip deep into the heart of British decency and traditions of unity."

Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the Labour Party, told the Indian Workers' Association at Southall on Saturday that it was Enoch Powell, and not the Commonwealth Immigrant, who was alien to the British way of life.

Mr Winston Churchill, MP for Streatham, which has a large immigrant population, was angry that Mr Powell had made an inflammatory speech in his constituency without informing him.

"I particularly resent Mr Powell's self-comparison to my grandfather and his warnings of the rise of Hitler. Far from warning of the dangers of large-scale immigration to Britain at a time when the problem could have been avoided, Mr Powell was part of the political generation responsible for that immigration," he said.

Mr Mark Bonham Carter, chairman of the Community Relations Commission, said the speech was that of an old man in a hurry. He would be surprised if an Attorney General at any party would prosecute an MP, including Mr Powell, for such a speech: "To do so would raise the whole issue of liberty of speech."

"Mr Powell would, I suspect, welcome a prosecution, which would make him a martyr to some, and do him more good than harm. We should not try to silence his opinions. Our purpose should

be to make those views unacceptable to the people of this country by argument, by allaying the fears of some sections of the white population, and by removing the disadvantages of the minority communities."

Mr Preful Patel, secretary of the Committee of United Kingdom Citizenship, agreed that Mr Powell might welcome a prosecution.

He has written to the leaders of the three main parties calling on them to avert disaster over race relations. In his letter Mr Patel says: "Mr Enoch Powell's crime is not in stating that there is a race relations problem."

"We all know that there are problems of racial equality and urban deprivation. The indictment which could be made against Enoch Powell is that he poses these problems in the language of violence when he should be appealing for tolerance."

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Reconciliation pleads a reconciliation between Britons and Indians. Britain has been a Confederation of Organizations, who members (our Le message to the P and Home Secret has been chosen and for half a x children and young were born here I home they have I dinary already h loyalty is now x Kingdom."

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Housing action areas may need more help

By John Young Planning Reporter

Concern is growing about the number of owner-occupiers in housing action areas who may face compulsory purchase of their homes because they cannot afford to improve them.

The situation, which appears not to have been foreseen when the Housing Act, 1974, was passed, may force the Government to increase the size of grants and make them more widely available.

The purpose of declaring a housing action area is to ensure that all property within its boundaries is brought up to a minimum standard which will guarantee a fairer life of at least 30 years. Once it has been approved by the Department of the Environment, the local authority can require every owner to carry out specific repairs and improvements within five years. Should an owner refuse, the authority may purchase his house and carry out the work itself.

At first glance these limitations might seem arbitrary and even perverse. But the Government's intention was that the programme should concentrate on the worst housing and encourage people living in larger houses than they needed to divide them into flats.

What was evidently overlooked, however, was the fact that many inner-city areas consist of large Victorian houses, which were built for the middle class and often wanted to make new departures in their working life.

He hoped that Britain would return to full employment and that a system could be introduced where all people who wanted to work after normal retirement age could do so. Not enough effort was being made to sell the merits of the older worker.

"If we are ever going to have changes in the development of work opportunities for older people we are going to have to get rid of discrimination. If we want to change their employment prospects as regards recruitment and promotion I have a feeling that we will have to introduce an age discrimination Act," he said.

Professor Fogarty, aged 60, has changed employers three times in the last 10 years. He said mid-career counselling should be a first priority in helping the eleven million people in Britain aged between 45 and retirement. They had to be prepared on how to use effectively the second part of their lives.

"One of the things that will have to come in the future is flexible retirement. A rather impressive amount of people would like to go on working, at least part-time, after the compulsory retirement age. Professor Fogarty estimated that between 30 and 40 per cent of people retiring at the statutory age were in that category.

All work costing up to £3,200 qualifies for a 75 per cent grant, or 90 per cent in the case of pensioners. But the balance must be met by the owners who, in such areas, are frequently poor.

Moreover, no grants are payable on houses with a rental value of more than £300 in London or £175 elsewhere except when the building is being converted into self-contained flats, in which case the respective limits are doubled.

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The setting up of a joint working party on the employment of blind people is announced today by the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Although the number of blind people employed in Britain compares favourably with that in other European countries, more registered blind people are now out of work than a year ago.

The working party will investigate the range of employment opportunities that should be available to blind people outside sheltered workshops that now employ four fifths of the blind workforce. It hopes to gather information on how opportunities in sales and service representation, and in hotels and catering, can be developed.

The working party is composed of members of the Royal Society for the Blind, representatives of two government bodies, the Employment Service Agency and the Training Services Agency, and representatives of organizations of blind people. It will be headed by Mr E. J. Venn, deputy director-general of the institute.

Shipyard chief holding up state takeover

Continued from page 1

of his questioning was irrelevant, since he could always say that the answers were important for the legal submissions he intended to make later in the hearing.

The procedure appears almost to have been designed to make things as awkward as possible. It is like a court case in which the defendant (the Government) is being cross-examined by the prosecution (Mr Bailey and others) without having heard the prosecution's case.

At the end of the panel of examiners, Mr T. G. Talbot, QC, said after many days of argument that the examiners still did not really know what the case being put by the memorialists (those claiming that the Bill could be hybrid).

Last Thursday, the tenth day of the proceedings, Mr Bailey of the panel of examiners, Mr McDonald, who appears to have established a record for time spent as a witness in such an examination.

Mr Gamon is now making further submissions for the Government. But later today the two other memorialists, along with Mr Bailey, will start to put their cases. Mr Bailey's submissions are unlikely to be brief.

No one is estimating how much longer the hearings could last. It might well be several weeks.

Even when the hearings have ended and the examiners have made their findings, their report will have to go to the House of Lords before it is decided whether the Bill is to be a normal passage through the House or will need a special and more time-consuming process.

Whatever happens, there is a long way to go before the nationalization plans can be implemented.

Strike 'will not close university'

Birmingham University will not be closed because of action by technicians' unions, Dr R. B. Hunter, vice-chancellor, said on Saturday. The technicians are demanding improved holidays.

The national strike by members of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS), involving 100 of the university's 900 technicians, was affecting the work of students and research staff, mainly because it hit the main computer. Dr Hunter said. But the university would not capitulate.

Two police constables swam through rough sea yesterday to rescue Mr Raymond Border, aged 18, who had fallen from the pier at Hastings, East Sussex.

Constable Michael Schofield was lowered from the pier on rope, which broke, and Constable Robert Pacey swam 60 yards from the shore. They brought the man back safely to the beach.

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Call to sell merits of older workers

By Sue Reid

Education Supplement

Britain will have to extend present anti-discrimination legislation to protect older workers, Professor Michael Fogarty, senior Fellow of the Centre for Studies in Social Policy, has predicted.

Speaking at Goldsmiths' College, London, on Saturday, on the difficulties of the middle-aged, Professor Fogarty said that routine in marriage and work often hindered the personal development of that age group, but research and experience had shown that people in middle age could learn new skills and often wanted to make new departures in their working life.

He hoped that Britain would return to full employment and that a system could be introduced where all people who wanted to work after normal retirement age could do so. Not enough effort was being made to sell the merits of the older worker.

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'Loss' of 1.75m bricks from council stock

By Diana Geddes

An unaccounted "loss" of 1,750,000 bricks valued at about £50,000 from Lambeth Borough Council stockpiles of second-hand bricks is being investigated by the council's director of labour building department.

A report by the district auditor, which is to be debated by the full council on Wednesday, says a survey of the stockpiles last March disclosed a "deficiency" of a million bricks. Another recent stock-taking showed that the deficiency had increased to 1,750,000.

These deficiencies are in large measure due to lack of precision in the recording of receipts and issues, the auditor says.

Commenting on the report, the Lambeth finance and general purposes committee says: "There is, of course, a wastage factor resulting from the handling of second-hand bricks when they are put into stockpiles and subsequently taken out and put on to building sites."

About 200,000 bricks were being prepared by the council's construction services department, which the committee understood would largely account for the discrepancy. The council suggested that it should be possible to certify certificates to be the existing stockpile, and to deal with the discrepancy by issuing a certificate for the missing bricks.

The Federation of Engineering Contractors has launched a campaign to stop the council from introducing a new system of issuing certificates for bricks. It says the council's system would be a waste of money and would lead to a loss of bricks.

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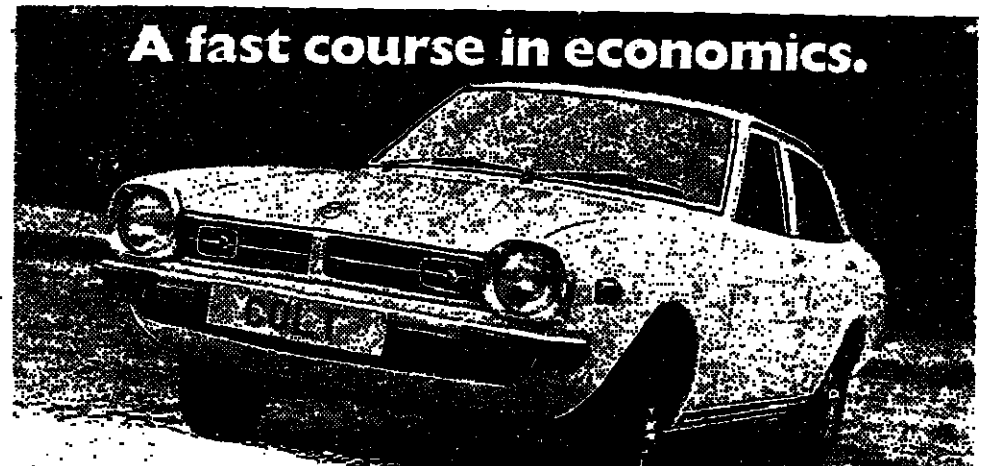
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Police rescue man from sea

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Clergyman dies in fire

NEWS

Health-raising powers for area authorities

by Christopher Warman
Local Government
Correspondent

Officials operating at regional level. The partners' report is understood to argue that the best feature of the 1974 reorganization was the introduction of the district teams, a view widely shared in the medical profession.

There are some "single-district" area authorities under the present system, that is, areas containing only one district team and in which the district and area functions are partly merged. The McKinsey team would favour an extension of that arrangement.

Mr John Barham, a London principal of the firm, who is one of the authors of the new report, denied yesterday that the 1974 reorganization had been a failure. The partners were arguing that some features of it should be extended and others abandoned, he said.

He added that the original McKinsey proposals had been subject to fundamental constraints, such as the inability to change the financial basis of the NHS. The authors of the new report believed defects on the fund-raising side to be behind many of the health service's present difficulties, and their proposals were aimed at overcoming those deficiencies.

Streamlining call: The health service administration must be streamlined, and its resources directed as much as possible to caring for the sick, the McKinsey team said, in evidence to the commission (the Press Association reports). The society represents administrators in the Department of Health and Social Security who have responsibility for the health service.

It said that the existing structure is inefficient and undemocratic; that the "over-managed" structure obstructs the efficient allocation of resources; that regional health authorities should be abolished and that direct links between the DHSS and AHAs would make the service more democratic and more efficient.

Tomney dropped from rates' European list

by Staff

Mr Tomney, the Labour MP for Ham-orth, has been dropped from the list of members of the European Parliament.

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Councillors 'should have Labour NEC seats'

By Christopher Warman
Local Government
Correspondent

Local councillors should be represented on the Labour Party's National Executive Committee to bring home to politicians based at Westminster the difficulties of the relationship between central and local government, a Fabian pamphlet published yesterday argues.

The pamphlet, entitled *Labour and Local Politics*, says councillor representation would "bring into the national level of party policy-making some practical experience of the consequences at local community level of national policies over housing, planning, education and so forth."

It also suggests a move towards "quasi-ministerial" committee chairmen on local authorities, full-time if necessary, with adequate support and services.

The pamphlet was written by Mr John Gyford, lecturer in town planning at University College London, and Mr Baker, head of the public services management unit at Sheffield City Polytechnic.

The authors say that the Labour Party has never developed any clear philosophy of local government although it has shown a tendency to favour big authorities. Views have diverged about the relationship between local and central government, some defending "general powers" of local authorities and others seeing them as the transmission belt for socialist legislation emanating from Parliament.

The latter view has tended to be predominant at national level, leading to insufficient attention by the party to local work, it is argued.

The pamphlet advocates more local government support work at Transport House, and urges Labour councillors, for their part, to initiate policy in their councils. Some Labour groups, the authors say, never discuss future policy, never lift their eyes above the immediate agenda, yet impose rigid whips.

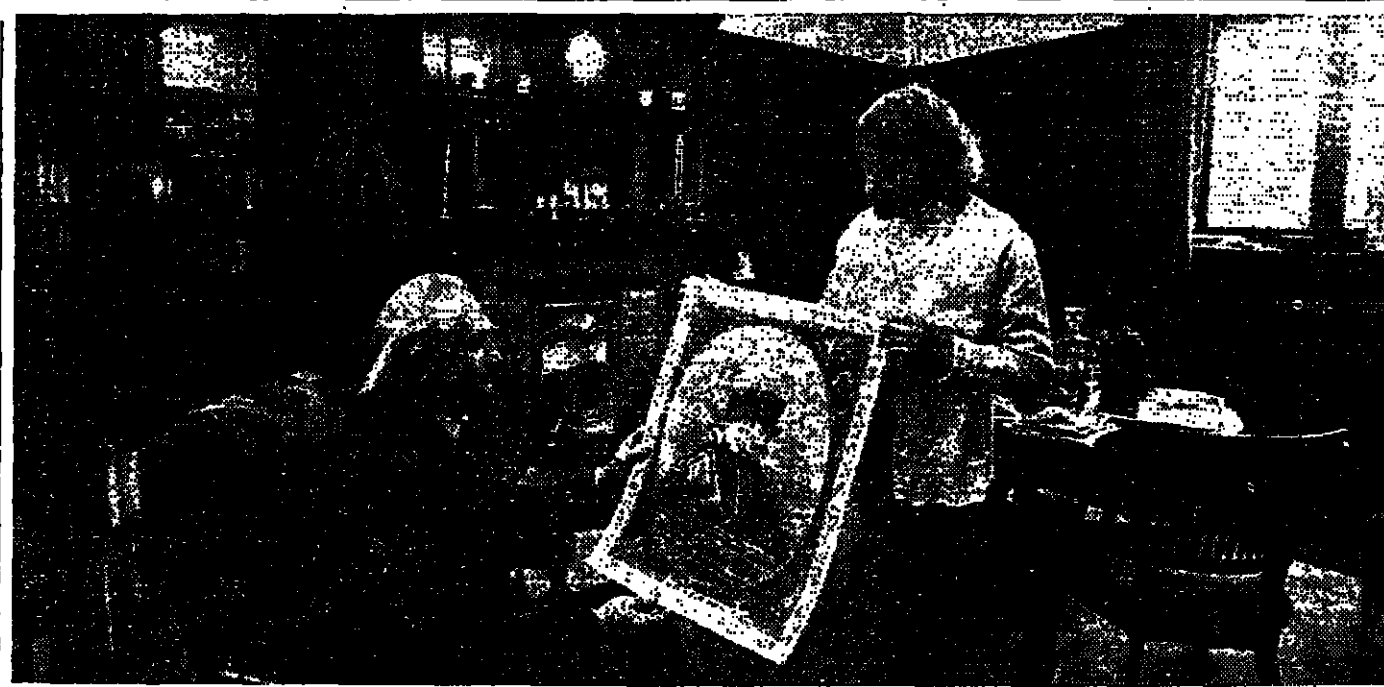
They deny councillors the right to break discipline over issues which crucially affect their own wards. "In these days of community politics, with all manner of amenity societies, activists and community groups ready to pounce on councillors who neglect local interests, this sort of political failure."

Suggesting a radical solution to the difficulties caused by the increasing complexities of council work, the authors say that a "central" system would free most councillors from responsibility for management and leave them to function like backbench MPs. Individual full-time "ministers" among the members might become as professional as experienced ministers in central government.

The authors argue: "The era seems likely to produce a formidable new coalition of professional expertise, with local authority treasurers and urban planners joining with the traditionally dominant local authority lawyers to emerge as the prime movers and managers of local government operations."

"Elected councillors must not let themselves be overruled by the new coalition and must set their face against any attempts to move power away from politicians towards those who claim the managerial and technical skills of the corporate planner."

Labour and Local Politics (Fabian Society, 11 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BN; 57p).



Mr and Mrs Walker at home in the former royal waiting rooms of Wolferton station.

'Royal rail tour' for the public

By Penny Symon

Sandringham, the Queen's 274-room Norfolk home, is to be opened to the public for the first time in May. Two miles away, on the same estate Mr and Mrs Eric Walker intend to open their home too.

That will be more modest, but no less fascinating, tour, because the Walkers inhabit the former royal waiting rooms at Wolferton station, which were built in 1898 for the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII.

He would arrive from London in the royal train, and rest in his waiting room, now the Walkers' bedroom, and the Princess would take her ease in the room that is now their drawing room. The rooms are separated by a hallway leading from the platform to the former royal drive.

The Walkers have a splendid library with the flags of the Empire painted on it, and a collection of interesting railway relics.

The relics include a spring-testing machine, a similar one for testing carboards, a 1900 fire appliance, posters, handbills, crockery and cutlery, and photographs. The visitors will also be able to delight in Mr Walker's collection of Edwardiana.

Mr Walker retired at the end of last year after a working life with British Rail. He had bought Wolferton, one of the few freehold properties on the Sandringham estate, in 1967. He

had seen that it was for sale, the Royal family having stopped using it in 1965 because it was considered too expensive to keep up. He visited it to make an inventory there as part of his job in the general manager's office at Liverpool Street Station, and determined to buy it.

"My wife and I have always been fascinated by converting historically interesting buildings, and I was horrified to see such a marvellous one, which for me had the added attraction of being connected with the railway, in a very bad state of repair."

He added: "The future use of the building was a problem for British Rail. Replacement by a row of semidetached houses or conversion to light industry or craft centres were ideas that were soon discarded in favour of a proposal for conversion into residences."

Stripping of the oak panelling for sale in the United States was also considered.

When the station came on the market Mr Walker bought the house, which included the royal waiting rooms, for £5,600. The upside, two properties, went for about £9,000, and are now private homes.

The property was uninhabitable when they took it over and while they were repairing it they lived in a caravan. Mr Walker would go to work in the week, and return to Wolferton at weekends to get his new, and unusual, home into some order.

The work has not yet been completed, but the Walkers intend to open the property as Easter, and will charge 25p for a tour for those who find the combination of railways and royalty irresistible.

The Sandringham estate has indicated that there is no objection to Mr Walker's plan.

Decision by May on inflation-proof pensions

By Peter Hennessy

The Cabinet will decide whether to abandon inflation-proofed public service pensions during the next three months, before negotiations are completed with the TUC on stage three of the Government's incomes policy.

Ministers decided in principle to amend inflation-proofing during the Cabinet meetings that preceded the IMF loan last month. At the last moment, however, they shrank from such a change when faced with the complexities of repealing the Pensions (Increase) Act, 1971, and adjusting a host of analogous schemes in nationalized industries.

Instead of announcing a revised 1971 Act (which established the principle of inflation-proofing by linking increases to movements in the retail price index) as was his original intention, Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, limited himself to a vague commitment to talk with the TUC.

He told the Commons on December 15: "There are also important questions, which I shall want to consider with the TUC and other interested bodies, concerning the interrelationships between changes in earnings, social security benefits, pensions and rates of direct and indirect taxation."

Given public and political concern about index-linking at a time of inflation, ministers are certain to return to the matter between now and May, although consultation have yet to begin with the TUC on levels of benefit and pension.

About 1,100,000 pensioners are directly affected by the 1971 Act, including former civil servants, local government officers, members of the Armed Services,

teachers, policemen, firemen, judges, MPs and employees of the National Health Service. A further 500,000 from nationalized industries receive parallel increases, either as in the Post Office because their schemes are directly linked or through informal agreements.

Should ministers decide to change the arrangements, they have several options. They might amend the 1971 Act and link future increases to movements in the index of average earnings or leave it to the Minister for the Civil Service to announce periodic adjustments, as was the practice before 1971.

To achieve that would require the insertion of a couple of clauses into the Finance Bill

next summer. Ministers would then rely on political pressure for nationalized industries to conform.

Should the Cabinet decide, for reasons of equity, to include the half million public-sector pensioners in any new statute, a complicated enabling Bill would be necessary to undo a myriad of individual schemes. Such a Bill would be unlikely in the present session.

A third, if unlikely, possibility would be for the Government to abandon the principle of index-linking for social security payments. Public service pensions and much else would be fundamentally changed if economics forced such a shift.

A further complication might be concessions to private sector pensioners under Memorandum 12 of the Inland Revenue Superannuation Funds Office, published in 1974. It allowed beneficiaries of private schemes to calculate their pension in relation to average earnings over any three consecutive years during their past 10 years in employment.

Given the marked fall in real income of top salary earners in recent years, the scheme allows private sector pensioners to escape some of the consequences of inflation. Should the Government amend the 1971 Act, public service unions would press for a concomitant alteration to Memorandum 12.

Pensioners to take Government to court

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Three pensioners will take out a writ in the High Court today saying the Government has not fulfilled its obligation fully to protect pensions and other benefits against inflation.

Their action will challenge the legality of the Government's decision last year to change its method of calculating inflation, which resulted in pensions rising last November by £1 a week less than under the old method.

The Government admitted at the time that the new method resulted in a general increase costing £300 million less than the amount needed fully to protect benefits against inflation. It justified the decision on the ground that national insurance contributions would have to be raised to cover the whole amount and it would be unfair

to ask workers to pay more when their own pay was restricted.

Since then it has emerged that the National Insurance Fund expects a surplus this year of £322m. MPs have challenged the Government to use that to pay the full pension increase that has been refused.

Mr Arthur Reginald Jenkins, aged 69, of Coventry, is one of three pensioners in the case, which is sponsored by the Child Poverty Action Group.

He said yesterday that he believed the Government had calculated the inflationary period wrongly. "I want justice for the pensioner, not charity," he said. "Because the pension has not kept pace with the cost of living, voluntary organizations are stepping in to help pensioners. I have paid into the scheme and, now I am retired, I should be getting my full pension."

All three pensioners have

been given legal aid. The case potentially affects 14 million people claiming various social security benefits.

The Child Poverty Action Group says that under the terms of the Social Security Act, 1975, which first imposed the duty to consider benefits with inflation, the Government has until April to fulfil its obligation.

The group says because the Government has not properly reviewed benefits it is obliged to either pay the extra £1 a week or amend legislation on how benefits should be revised.

"The Government passed the legislation on how benefits should be reviewed and if the country cannot now afford to maintain the pledge, they should spell that out and change the law accordingly," the group says. "It is not as though the money has not already been collected from taxpayers."

Tories would cut Welsh assembly to 50 seats

From a Staff Reporter
Cardiff

After their failure to have Wales removed from the devolution Bill last week, the Conservatives will seek to reduce the size of the Welsh assembly from 80 seats to 50.

Mr Francis Pym, chief Opposition spokesman on devolution, said at a Conservative Conference on devolution at Brynamwr, Gwent, on Saturday that 50 members would be sufficient for the assembly's work. "Anything more looks like jobs for the boys."

As well as criticizing devolution on grounds of expense and a growth in bureaucracy, Mr Pym said a Welsh assembly would undermine the influence of MPs. It would claim to speak for Wales, and its chief executive would come to be thought of as a prime minister.

He said the Government was delaying the referendum on devolution in order to conduct the propaganda of the Conservative Party. The Conservatives were looking forward to an enjoyable and hard-hitting campaign.

Liberal challenge: The Liberals at the weekend threw down the gauntlet to the Government's slow-moving devolution Bill, but ministers still affect to be unimpressed (our Political Staff writes).

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said in a statement that no Liberal support for a guillotine motion would come unless changes were made.

The biggest and most useful concession for the Liberals would be a reduction in representation. That has some Conservative support.

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, whose support for devolution led to his departure from the Shadow Cabinet, called yesterday for Tories to support proportional representation, due to be debated tomorrow. It would recognize Scottish political realities, he said in Edinburgh.

Mr Steel's shopping list of concessions included four other points: a reduction in the United Kingdom power to control the planned assemblies; the granting of power to impose taxes; powers over industry and the economy; and a cut in the over-representation of Scots and Welsh MPs at Westminster.

Those changes would mean devolution of federalism, which Liberals prefer.

Balcombe Street siege trial today

The trial of four men arrested after the siege in Balcombe Street, London, in December 1975, opens at the Central Criminal Court today.

Nine murders, including those of Mr Ross McWhirter, co-author of the Guinness book of Records, and Professor Gordon Hamilton-Fairley, a cancer research specialist, were among the charges on which the men were committed for trial by Lambeth magistrates last May.

Climbers found

Two missing members of the Croydon Mountaineering Club were found safe yesterday after spending all night of the falls at the head of Ullswater Lake, in Cumbria. They are Mr Robert Gookey, aged 35, of Croydon, Surrey, and Mr Peter Roper, aged 35, of Holme Bush Road, Putney, London.

ates 'still about d abuse'

by Staff

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Food price index up by more than 100 in under four years

Increases in food price indices in EEC countries between January, 1973, and October, 1976, were as follows: Belgium 42.3; Denmark 55.0; West Germany 18.3; France 52.1; Irish Republic 68.7; Italy 99.8; Luxembourg 42.0; Netherlands 36.2; United Kingdom 103.4.

Percentage increases in the British prices of six basic foods between January, 1973, and November, 1976, were as follows: butter 12.0; bacon 113; cheese 71; lard 147; beef 76; bread 96.

Prices, January 12

Biggest increases: Of the 80 food items for which average retail prices are published each week in the Department of Employment Gazette, the 12 whose prices rose most in percentage terms between October, 1974, and October, 1976 were: old, white, loose potatoes (up from 3.1p to 11.5p per lb); old, red, loose potatoes (2.6p to 12.0p); milk (4.5p to 9.5p a pint); home-produced butter (24.6p to 49.5p per lb); New Zealand butter (23.0p to 46.0p); Danish butter (22.2p to 51.0p); onions (7.0p to 14.0p per lb); cabbage (5.7p to 9.6p per lb); home-killed breast of lamb (17.4p to 29.7p per lb); home-killed shoulder of lamb (38.3p to 64.0p); home-killed

Answers in Parliament

A periodic digest of information given in parliamentary written replies, with the source and dates on which they appeared in Hansard

Prices, January 17

Fuel sources: Coal will account for about 40 per cent of United Kingdom total primary energy use in 1982; gas 20-25 per cent; oil 30-40 per cent; nuclear 7-8 per cent; and hydro-generation less than 1 per cent. Renewable sources other than hydro-generation are not expected to contribute significantly by that date.

Energy, January 17

Pensions: For those public service pensioners for which the Civil Service Department is responsible, the

cost over a full year of implementing the increases payable from December 1, 1976, is estimated to be £114m, as follows: Civil Service, £12m; local authorities, £22m; armed forces, £22m; teachers, £12m; National Health Service, £12m; police and fire services, £10m; other small schemes, £4m.

Civil Service, January 13

Seat belts: If all car drivers and passengers wore their seat belts about 19 lives a week would be saved.

Transport, January 12

Income tax: The cost for 1976-77 of raising £22m in the income tax allowances for single persons, earning wives, married persons and the aged, and at the same time reducing the basic rate from 35 per cent to 30 per cent would be about £5,900m in a full year.

Treasury, January 18

Equal pay disputes: Of 1,319 disputes about equal pay referred to industrial tribunals between December 29, 1975 and September 24, 1976, 309 (23.4 per cent) were dismissed, and 111 (8.4 per cent)

upheld. (Where cases were dismissed, the findings were favourable to employers.) Of cases cleared without tribunal hearings, 96 (7.3 per cent) resulted in conciliated settlements, 150 (11.4 per cent) were withdrawn as a result of private settlements, and 653 (49.5 per cent) were withdrawn for unknown reasons.

Employment, January 11

Water services: The percentage increases in average water rates for 1976-77, compared with the average charged by water undertakings in 1973-74, are for each water authority: North-West, 147; Northumbrian, 143; Severn-Trent, 158; Yorkshire, 148; Anglian, 134; Thames, 104; Southern, 154; Wessex, 153; South-West, 178; Welsh NWDA, 273.

Environment, January 17

Welsh water charges: The average charge in the Welsh National Water Development Authority area in 1975-76 was £19.20 per domestic property, 44.9 per cent above the average for England and Wales of £13.25 per domestic property.

Wales, January 12

Protest over children in stage workshop

By a Staff Reporter

The Festival of Light has called on the Government to halt "the growing exploitation of children by militant homosexuals" after the recent announcement that schoolchildren from London are to take part in a theatre workshop run by the Gay Sweatshop Company.

A report, *Age of Consent*, first produced by the festival and submitted to the Home Office, says recent developments on homosexuality were never envisaged by Parliament when the Act of 1967 was passed. The festival calls for a select committee of both Houses to inquire into the spread of homosexual practices and its propagation in Britain.

Dogs kill boy

John McCarthy, of Owens, co Cork, was savaged to death by eight greyhounds owned by his uncle, when he paid a fifth birthday visit to his grandparents on Saturday night.

Satellite plan to improve weather forecasting

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A scheme to improve short-term weather forecasting is suggested in the latest issue of the Meteorological Office's monthly magazine.

In an article entitled "Satellite infra-red nephelometers", it is explained how an immense amount of valuable information from advanced satellites could be used to improve the accuracy of forecasts.

The idea comes from Dr E. C. Barrett and Dr R. Harris, of Bristol University. They describe the improvements available from satellites transmitting back to Earth more usual black and white pictures.

Examination of photographs of cloud cover and cloud movements taken from orbit (chance is, satellite nephelometers) gives the meteorologist vital information for evaluating the other, more conventional, observations.

However, the most advanced weather satellites carry instruments for taking infra-red pictures of clouds and for recording a temperature profile from orbit to ground level, in addition to the usual black and white pictures.

The image obtained from the emission of infrared radiation from objects provides a three-dimensional picture of the cloud. It also enables more cloud varieties to be identified than is possible with the usual picture, and more detailed assessments of cloud thickness and rate of movement.

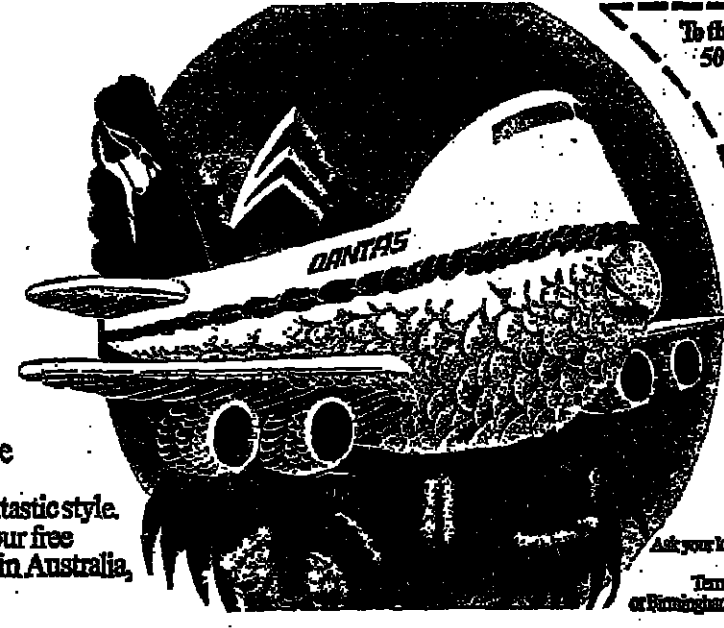
Infrared also enables cloud fields to be examined at night as well as in the day. It is the only available information on clouds from high-latitude regions that are dark most of the time during the winter.

Recommendations are made in the article for converting the infrared methods into routine maps and information formats, so that forecasters can use the available data.

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WEST EUROPE

Gunmen shoot student dead during three-hour police battle with demonstrators in Madrid streets

From Harry Debellus
Madrid, Jan 23

A student, aged 19, was shot dead and several people were injured when pro-amnesty demonstrators fought police and right-wing groups in the centre of Madrid for three hours today.

The shooting took place in the Plaza Santa Maria Soledad, one short block from Madrid's main street, the Gran Vía. According to a young woman who claimed to have seen the incident, four young men, neatly dressed and with short hair cuts, approached a group of shouting demonstrators. One of the four yelled: "We have come to kill you sons of whores" and he fired two shots at point blank range at a dark-haired youth.

This differed slightly from the version broadcast by the national radio, which mentioned only two assailants, one of them elderly.

The demonstrators, shocked at the sound of gunfire, started to run, and the victim, Señor Arturo Ruiz Garcia, also ran a few steps before collapsing, witnesses told *The Times*.

Helmeted riot police, already approaching the Plaza in pursuit of the demonstrators, arrived immediately after the shots rang out, but the gunmen had already disappeared in the confusion.

In addition to the shooting, other attacks were carried out against suspected demonstrators by bands of men, armed with knives and clubs. Outside a church only one block from the scene of the shooting, I saw one such gang beat up several presumed demonstrators.

One shouted: "We should kill you" as he kicked a long haired youth wearing a leather jacket. The attackers were men in their thirties, most of them wearing ordinary dark business suits. They launched their attack from the doorway of a church where an annual Mass is said for the repose of the soul of Adolf Hitler. It is frequented

by members of the right-wing extremist organisation *Warriors for Christ the King*.

Today's demonstration was not Madrid's biggest, but it was undoubtedly one of the best organised by the demonstrators, and one of the longest and noisiest. The demonstrators probably did not number more than a few thousand. The largest group to gather at one time totalled about 1,000, and police scattered them by making charges with speeding jeeps and by firing rubber bullets.

Demonstrators fled into narrow streets alongside the Gran Vía and dragged dozens of parked cars across the streets to block the way of pursuing police vehicles. Then the demonstrators, as if by previous arrangement, regrouped at several successive points. After the demonstration had been going on for more than two hours, with police jeeps trapped behind barricades, police put men on horseback into the fray, to make their way around the barricades.

There is a strong suspicion among opposition elements that the Argentine right-wing terrorist organization AAA may have taken part in some of the assaults on demonstrators. On a street leading to the plaza where the shooting occurred, a voice with a distinctly Argentine accent barked out an order to a journalist to refrain from picking up leaflets scattered by demonstrators. The man giving the order seemed to speak with authority, and he kept his right hand in his coat pocket. He was about 35 and dressed in civilian clothes.

Today anarchists seemed to dominate the ranks of the demonstrators. Their demonstration, which had previously been banned, was in favour of freedom for all political prisoners, including those held in connection with violent activities.

William Chislett writes from Amorebieta near Bilbao: "Man does not live by food alone, but also by total amnesty" read one

of the slogans in the church belfry here where 10 Basques have just ended a hunger strike after five days.

The slogan was drawn whimsically on the back of a picture of ham, egg and chips; and in the end the men were conquered by their stomachs. None the less, they feel that their strike has drawn attention to the "special relationship" between the two countries. Earlier, the French head of state had another taste of folklore when he attended a track meeting which featured a camel race won by a mount owned by the son of King Khalid.

In the first 24 hours after the President touched down in Concorde, French officials have done everything to quash talk of economic problems emanating from his four-day stay, although this clearly lies behind it.

The first official indication of this came after M. Giscard d'Estaing met Prince Fahd today. It was announced the two leaders discussed energy matters, which it was made clear by Saudi officials—meant oil supplies and prices relating to France.

On the political side, the situation is clearer. President Giscard d'Estaing shares Saudi views on the two important points that were the *quid pro quo* for Saudi Arabia's stand on the recent oil price rise.

Another arms deal also seems to be a likely result from the visit and there is also mention of a possible loan from Saudi Arabia to boost the French economy.

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OVERSEAS



The French President and King Khalid watch the royal victory in a camel race yesterday.

French officials play down economic benefits of Giscard visit to Riyadh

From Paul Martin
Riyadh, Jan 23

President Giscard d'Estaing dined Bedouin-style with his Saudi Arabian hosts tonight as his talks continued on the "special relationship" between the two countries. Earlier, the French head of state had another taste of folklore when he attended a track meeting which featured a camel race won by a mount owned by the son of King Khalid.

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But the discussion was not one-sided because the Saudis are interested in the energy which France can supply them—in the field of nuclear development.

An accord on nuclear co-operation between the two countries was agreed when Prince Fahd visited France last July. As the most active Western exporters of nuclear technology after the United States, the French are anxious to sell the Saudis a small reactor which would enable them to begin their own nuclear research programme.

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The French President believes a determined effort should be made for peace in the Middle East this year and that Saudi Arabia should play a major role in this.

On the North-South dialogue, which he has hosted since it began at Saudi insistence, he has been the most determined Western voice in favour of real progress.

The festivity of tonight's occasion was no more than traditional Saudi hospitality. But the Saudis are determined to make the most of the visit of the most important Western leader to have been their guest to date.

An example of this is the manner in which King Khalid, who has been unwell lately, met President Giscard d'Estaing at Riyadh airport. The king was obviously in pain from his leg ailment and needed the support of an ornate walking stick.

Tonight's dinner was held in an Arab tent in the desert about 12 miles out of the capital.

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Carters bring square dance to Washington

From Fred Emery
Washington, Jan 23

The inaugural celebrations died hard in Washington. Free concerts were still being given this weekend and only today could the President and Mrs Carter get up without the prospect of standing for hours at the head of the receiving line of yet another White House reception.

Yesterday they received the Congress and the diplomatic corps, most of whom were meeting Mr Carter for the first time. An exception was Sir Peter Ramsbotham, British Ambassador, who was invited to one of the first Georgetown dinner parties last spring at which the Washington political establishment tried coming to terms with the Georgian upstart.

However, for the people who came here from "Middle America" there can be little doubt that the most memorable wind-up event of them all was the mass free admission square dance on Friday evening.

At least 15,000 attended, most of them expert, and bore witness that square dancing is alive and well across the continent.

It was held again at the National Visitor Centre, the converted railway terminus. The place is another world from the draught and grime of

the great London in carpeted, heated, and icy on a.

On Friday night was an intricate whirl, with witty and colourful costumes that square dance come some way since of jeans and gingham.

The profusion of mostly middle-aged although black gr. The South were there because of his the former was rather grinfaced enjoyment.

One bulky lady bama who had the step explained that network of clubs country. They pract "S various gages, a variety of dances, i other clubs, took p petitions and, of co their own dresses.

The Carters did But the whole aff with the gathering's tist hymn, gave to what Mrs Rosalynn in mind for Wh receptions.

If Mr Callaghan tends to be the fi leader to call the ter learn a few "Ale Do-si-Do's". It is cult than it looks. Dis

President puts his Cabinet together and joins a ch

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Jan 23

President Carter, fresh from joining the First Baptist Church here where he promised to teach regularly at Sunday school, today held the swearing-in of eight of his Cabinet members and four top officials.

Chief Justice Warren Burger administered the oath at a ceremony in the East Room of the White House.

Of the three appointees still to be confirmed, Mr Carter jokingly chided the Senate for being a little stronger on advice than on consent.

The three have faced lingering opposition and will be subject to a full roll call vote later this week which all are expected to pass. The most controversial is Mr Griffin Bell as Attorney General. His appointment is much criticised as a case of "cronyism" as on objections to his alleged lack of enthusiasm for civil rights while a federal appeals court judge for the Deep South.

Facing only slight opposition are Mr Joseph Califano and Dr F. Ray Marshall, appointed to head the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Department of Labour respectively.

Speaking at the ceremony Mr Carter repeatedly "superb" qualities his voice and had for each. But most was what he said o Cabinet members.

Mr Bert Lance, a powerful figure as the Office of Manag Budget, he describe administration and the oaths at a ceremony in the East Room of the White House.

Mr Nixon, Mr Carter never would his staff superior position to the "Cabinet". B Although the majo rities will run the ments."

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Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, arriving at Northolt evening before going on to Chequers.

Rhine Army costs issue at Chequers

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and Mr Callaghan began their talks at Chequers last night with a survey of the economic outlook. A variety of European Community topics is on the agenda, including the growing economic summit with the United States.

The only major bilateral issue which the Prime Minister is likely to raise is offset costs for British troops in West Germany. Britain wants to renew this agreement, perennially a source of friction, and the West German Government is reluctant to do so. The cost of maintaining the Rhine Army was estimated at £400m in 1975-76, of which Bonn contributed five per cent or £20m.

The general discussions continue at Downing Street today.

Spanish nun canonized by the Pope

From Our Correspondent
Rome, Jan 23

The Pope today canonized Sister Raffaella Maria, a Spanish nun who founded a religious order, the Congregation of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

St Raffaella, born into a rich family near Caroba in 1710, took vows of chastity at the age of 15 and dedicated herself to helping the needy.

Her canonization is the first by the Pope since 1962.

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EEC plan to license 38 Soviet block trawlers

From David Cross
Brussels, Jan 23

Only 17 Soviet, East German and Polish vessels would be allowed to fish in the European Community's new 200-mile zone at any one time under a tough formula which has been worked out in Brussels.

Recently, there have been as many as 70 Russian, eight East German and six Polish ships in the Community's waters and they have been rapidly exhausting the three-month quota of fish set by the Nine last month.

Last week EEC Foreign Ministers decided that overfishing must stop and asked officials in Brussels to work out a strict licensing system for a limited number of East European vessels.

The officials agreed tentatively that the British Government, in its capacity as chairman of the EEC's Council of Ministers, should issue licences for named Russian, East German and Polish ships. Of this number only 27 vessels, mainly Russian, would be permitted to fish at any one time.

The decision, in principle, has to be ratified by member governments this week. If no objections are raised, and this is by no means certain, the decision would be relayed to the East Europeans this week. It would take effect from February 1.

The licensing system would last until the beginning of April.

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US tax men claim £2m from Mr Park

From Our Correspondent
Washington, Jan 23

Liens, which are formal claims of interest in others' property, have been filed by the federal tax authorities in the total sum of \$4,500,000 (about £2,650,000) against Mr Park's assets of Mr Park's Tong Sum, a South Korean businessman.

Mr Park, known here as Tongsum Park, is under investigation for alleged plot to bribe members of the American Congress by agents of the Seoul Government.

The affair is viewed here as one of the time-bombs threatening the Democratic-controlled Congress with scandal.

Mr Park, who has not returned to the United States since last autumn, has issued denials, through associates here, of his involvement in any wrongdoing.

The Internal Revenue Service has disclosed that his liens are for cumulative unpaid taxes, both personal and corporate, for the years 1972-75. Mr

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ers bring
to Wash
RSEAS

Pakistan leader takes lit for sudden call by Mrs Gandhi

Correspondent
Jan 23
his election cam-
paign, Mr Bhutto, the
Prime Minister, said
that Pakistan had
been subjugated by
the sub-continent. In
his sub-continent, he
said, the sub-continent
had been subjugated
by the sub-continent.
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day, when most of the 30
million voters are expected
to exercise their franchise, the
country will witness a hectic
campaign from both sides
which may not be altogether
peaceful. As if expecting
violence, the Prime Minister has
given warning that the Govern-
ment is fully equipped to deal
with any ugly situation.

Leading article, page 13

Indians told choice is democracy or fascism

From Our Correspondent
Delhi, Jan 23

Rushed by Mrs Gandhi's
decision to hold a general elec-
tion, four opposition parties
which have joined hands today
named Mr Morarji Desai, aged
80, her former Deputy Prime
Minister, as chairman of their
newly-formed Janata Party.

The first election to the
party's national committee was
to contest the elections to the
Lower House throughout the
country. At the same time
resolutions were passed seeking
the release of all political
detainees, some of whom it said
were prospective candidates; the
objective coverage of the cam-
paign by the state-owned radio
and television; and the lifting
of restrictions on banned
organizations.

Speaking to the press, Mr
Jayaprakash Narayan, who was
re-elected politician to lead the
Opposition Party, said Mrs
Gandhi's decision to hold
elections should not blind the
people to the fact that the
choice was nothing less than
between democracy and a
fascist dictatorship.

The increasing restiveness of
the people and criticism from
abroad had persuaded the
Government to stage elections,
he claimed. Mrs Gandhi's Con-
gress Party felt it was bound to
win, not because it was popular,
but because the opposition par-
ties had been given hardly any
time to reorganize their shat-
tered party cadres, raise funds
and make the extensive arrange-
ments required to fight elec-
tions in this vast land with the
biggest electorate in the world.

Mr Narayan, who is 74 and
looked exhausted, said he
suffered from a kidney complaint
which made it difficult for him
to like all dictatorial groups,
the Congress Party had a con-
tempt for the people. "But
today the people cannot be so
easily misled. They have learnt
the hard way that it is only
democratic procedures that
protect the rights of the poor."

Delhi, Jan 23.—The electoral
commission has published a list
of 39 unrecognized parties that
can contest the forthcoming
elections. The list includes the Revo-
lutionary Communist Party of
India and the Bolshevik Party
of India.

The power of Italy's 'royal family'

A Times Profile



and open-minded industrialist was
at its peak. There was even talk, before
the 1975 elections, of a new political
grouping: a centre-left party, in-
corporating Republicans, Liberals and
Social Democrats, with Gianni as pos-
sible leader. The idea fell through,
but for a while there was further
rumour that he would stand as a Re-
publican candidate. That, too, col-
lapsed, when Umberto made the sur-
prising decision to stand for a rival
party, the Christian Democrats.

Gianni's political fiasco seems to have
done him as little harm as his playboy
escapes. Friends and enemies who
once laughed somewhat nervously about
the beautiful girls and the enormous
yachts, now say of his political flir-
tings: "If Gianni wouldn't go in for
politics, then clearly the state of Italy
must be even more rotten than we
thought it was." Nor do they sur-
prise as it seems in a country as fervently
nationalist as Italy, appear to resent
his blatant internationalism. It all adds
to the myth.

Gianni and Umberto were not the
only Agnellis to make a bid for pol-
itical power. Susanna Agnelli, former
wife of a Milanese lawyer, Urbano
Razzani, and mayor for the past two
years of the Argentario, a Tuscan penin-
sula best known for its summer resorts,
won a seat as a Republican Deputy in
the 1975 elections. Her victory was
predictable, Suni, as she is universally
known, a handsome and immensely
energetic woman who is much like
Gianni in appearance and manner, has
made an outstanding success of her
time as mayor, bullying and cajoling
local councillors into building much
needed nursery schools and more
putting a stop to the illicit build-
ing of hideous summer villas. Her
stamina is legendary, her brisk and
forthright style disconcerting in a
bureaucratic system more used to
lengthy speeches and endlessly deferred
decisions. And he is quite trans-
parently incorruptible. With what,
after all, could you corrupt an Agnelli? Suni
is, however, very candid about
her disillusionment with national pol-
itics. Being a Republican Deputy is
proving far less attractive than a
renowned and somewhat feared local
mayor.

Umberto's political experiences—
about which he is very guarded—speak
for themselves. Elected Senator in
1975, he was eager to create a new
dynamic style of Christian Democrat
leadership. Things have not turned out
that way. Umberto's assumptions were
far too arrogant, says one political
colleague. "Why should the old guard
defer to him?" (One cannot help feel-
ing that had it been Gianni, they would
have listened.)

At all events, Umberto's enthusiasm
has visibly dwindled, and he spends
as much time as he can in Turin, effec-
tively not nominal managing director
of Fiat once again. "When he's in a
good mood Gianni always says that he'll
stand for the European Parliament,"
says Suni. "But when he sees what's
happened to Umberto and what I don't
think he'll ever touch politics
again."

The political frustrations all three
Agnellis have encountered in the past
18 months may have served to convince
them that national politics is not for
them. But it has done something else.
It has made them, if possible, even
greater. Television appearances
at which Gianni excels, dominating the
most experienced of interviewers,
American-style walkabouts (for what?
Newspaper coverage (Gianni appeared
on the cover of 11 national magazines
in 1975 alone), have imprinted the
Agnelli stamp indelibly on the whole
of modern Italy.

There is no one now who does not
know that Gianni wears a special brace
on his broken leg for skiing, that he
likes cashmere V-necked sweaters and
double-breasted suits, and has set a
trend for fastidious watch over
rather than under his shirt cuff. (An
audacious new move is to wear his tie
over his sweater, too.) No newspaper
reader is not by now intimately familiar
with his daily routine, his early waking
(journalists are told to be ready by 6
am for a possible summons), the man-
ical speed at which he drives, the fact
that all his telephone calls, whether
between Tokyo and New York or Rome
and Rome, are connected via one of his
four personal telephone operators in
Turin. He is sharp and funny and
quickly bored, shrewd rather than
intellectual, something of an exhibi-
tionist.

Suni and Umberto are less well
known, but everyone will tell you how
Suni drives an open jeep around the
Argentario, and that Umberto is a loner
by nature. All three speak perfect
English, (they had an American grand-
mother, and an English governess),
excellent French, and all have trouble
pronouncing their 'r's, something be-
tween a lisp and an aristocratic drawl.
All three have flats in the same build-
ing in Rome, on the Quirinale Hill, each
one something of a caricature of its
owner's image: Gianni's tasteful,

flamboyant and opulent; Umberto's
cold, expensive, with surprising and not
quite convincing touches of bohemia;
Suni's small, practical, elegant.

The fame can have its drawbacks.
Recognized everywhere, the Agnellis
are vulnerable to sudden attacks in the
street (a driver not long ago pulled up
three lorries alongside Suni in a Rome
street and shouted at her "Get the hell
back to Libya!"). More worrying is the
continual daily threat of kidnapping,
proved all too possible by the seizure
of Gianni's son-in-law's mother last
year (a ransom was paid), a threat not
quite removed by bodyguards (whose
presence is extremely discreet), barri-
caded houses, ferocious Alsatians, and
plans altered at the last moment.

Valletta thought of Fiat only Fiat
money, Fiat expansion. His houses and
schools were for Fiat workers alone.
The trouble is that in their wake came
cousins, aunts, friends and acquaint-
ances, and that today Turin is a city
in crisis: the population has almost
doubled in 15 years, vandalism and
street gangs have put once fashionable
streets out of bounds to night-time
pedestrians, the schools are over-
flowing, the police confused, the priests
helpless. "Ninety per cent of the people
who arrived from the south in the 60s
came because of Fiat," a city councillor
told me. And the new Agnelli leader-
ship has done what appears to be
remarkably little to help the town.

The Agnelli Foundation, which has
been interested in world democracy
from local survival. True, the Agnellis
attend meetings with regional officials,
and do not fob them off with deputies.
But there has been little concrete action.
The mayor and the Turin councillors
(a new communist-dominated group
was elected last year) are anxious not
to condemn the family, only too
conscious of what it does for the
economics of the Piedmont. After all,
one in every five workers in the region
is directly or indirectly employed by
Fiat. But they are clearly worried. As
one official—who understandably
wished to remain anonymous—said to
me somewhat bitterly: "The Agnellis?
All they have ever done for Turin is
own the Juventus football club."

Both brothers are fanatical supporters
of their team. Their appearance on the
pitch is one of their only excursions
into Turin life, totally ignoring, as they
do, Turin society and entertainments,
though both have houses of consider-
able luxury. (Gianni's well stocked with
Picassos and Renoirs, Gobelin tapestries
and Roman statuary), in favour of
Rome's attractions. Gianni's playboy
tastes are severely curtailed by business
commitments. But they are not quite
dead.

There are 73 Agnelli cousins, accord-
ing to a family tree drawn up by the
Fiat public relations officer under the
heading of the "Dynasty of the Car".
Only the direct descendants have a slice
of Fiat, whose assets were quoted on the
Italian stock exchange last June or
more than £120m though the riches—
far in excess of anything imaginable
in this country today—clearly spread
and percolate down through the
branches.

Neotism, however, plays no part
in the canny and highly professional
Fiat management, and of the many
Nasi, Camerana and Brandolini rela-
tions, only a handful work for the
company. Rarely does anyone talk about
the future. For one thing, the current
leaders are young—Gianni is 55,
Umberto is 42. For another, it is
simply assumed that when the time
comes (power will be bequeathed to
Gianni's only son Edoardo, now 22 and
at Princeton (and who in true family
tradition will be left to his playboy
phase for the time being), or to Suni's
eldest son Cristiano, 28 and head of
Fiat in Venezuela).

Meanwhile, the exploits of this gener-
ation of Agnellis are of enough national
interest. Suni's acute and anecdotal
book was not a best seller for her
name alone: she has an unmistakable
talent for autobiography and a clear
eye that can be pleasingly malicious.
Nor are Gianni's inherited wealth and
power alone responsible for the Libyan
deal, the attraction of foreign invest-
ment, and the comfortable turnover
of Fiat at a time when Italy sinks ever
further into financial crisis. The
Agnellis appear to exude prosperity,
invincible confidence. What they touch,
Midas-like, whether it is writing, busi-
ness or local politics, suddenly begins
to work.

During his playboy days Gianni was
a close friend and admirer of President
Kennedy. It is perhaps to the Kennedy
days, and the Kennedy style, rather
than to any European counterpart, that
one must look for comparison. Suni,
sitting at her mother's desk in Porto
Santo Stefano, said to me: "If you
were born an Agnelli, you simply felt
that life was due to you." The English
is not perfect, but the meaning is clear.
In appearance, style and expectation,
Agnelli means "power".

Caroline Moorehead
© Times Newspapers Ltd, 1977

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Rome's attractions. Gianni's playboy
tastes are severely curtailed by business
commitments. But they are not quite
dead.

There are 73 Agnelli cousins, accord-
ing to a family tree drawn up by the
Fiat public relations officer under the
heading of the "Dynasty of the Car".
Only the direct descendants have a slice
of Fiat, whose assets were quoted on the
Italian stock exchange last June or
more than £120m though the riches—
far in excess of anything imaginable
in this country today—clearly spread
and percolate down through the
branches.

Neotism, however, plays no part
in the canny and highly professional
Fiat management, and of the many
Nasi, Camerana and Brandolini rela-
tions, only a handful work for the
company. Rarely does anyone talk about
the future. For one thing, the current
leaders are young—Gianni is 55,
Umberto is 42. For another, it is
simply assumed that when the time
comes (power will be bequeathed to
Gianni's only son Edoardo, now 22 and
at Princeton (and who in true family
tradition will be left to his playboy
phase for the time being), or to Suni's
eldest son Cristiano, 28 and head of
Fiat in Venezuela).

Meanwhile, the exploits of this gener-
ation of Agnellis are of enough national
interest. Suni's acute and anecdotal
book was not a best seller for her
name alone: she has an unmistakable
talent for autobiography and a clear
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half of the season grew win over Leicester City. Four were scored by Kidd, a per At Arsenal, Kidd rarely sh potential. Back on home far more at ease, thoug admittedly scant evidence City should have made th more impressive. Nonet have shown their intent

moment—a triumph of time.
Arsenal's resurgence—10
out defeat—ended at Bristol
had surprisingly beaten the
first day of this season. Cl
goals helped Bristol to lift
above the depression of
relegation and Arsenal's ma
Neill admitted: "We were
throughout." Yet again
keeper, Rimmer, stood soli

opponents at least
and still beat them
score the first goal
minutes when R
bounced off Wall
second came in a
goalline with two d
the goalkeeper; hi
hoisted neatly ove
keeper's head wh
seemed remarkably

ged to Kid

and still beat them
score the first goal
minutes when K
the first goal was
scored came in a
goalkeeping with two
the goalkeeper; he
hoisted nearly over
keeper's head wh
seemed remarkably
Kidd was lurking
awaiting Watson's
And his fourth came
busting header as
opponents challenged
Little wonder that
Kidd sought the ball
neat souvenir
Functuating Kidd's
only people, long
print made a
was the trumpet

MANCHESTER CITY: J. C. Chisholm, W. D. Damsch, W. Watson, G. Owen, J. P. Boyle, A. Harford, D. P. Barnes.

LEICESTER CITY: M. Whitworth, D. Rolfe, S. Blackwell, J. Sund, R. W. Meis, F. Worthington.

Referee: G. Courtney (cc Durham).

Meanwhile on the Bristol's lowly estate sense unaided, and goals has been their and this is explained by absence of Cheesley's large operation and a weak ankle of Brindleymer is in training again last, while the latter could be in and out of the side.

Still, a new hope is spurred now when Fearin to head home Fearcross from Hunter's throw through the one

Then followed his usual, with an hour settled the argument was shot in off the undermost crossbar by way broad based following a by Fear on the right.

agessor, carry: J. Shaw
G. Morris, S. Stansbury,
Hunter, P. Talmon, E. White,
Land, P. Cormack, C. Williams,
J. Morris, L. Stimmer,
Nelson, P. Stump, D. Simpson,
A. Menden, L. Menden,
Reference: M. Baker (Wol-

West Ham

more determination. The chairman said that, as yet he was not sure that Villa ought to have more, so feeble was their contribution. The goal-

by Gray from a cross by
was repeated during an
isolated, magical moment
imagination and skill
knocked the ball perfectly
a defender, ran round the
crossed for Gray to cross
it was given offside.

And then late in the
Deehan did nothing.

to throw a typically first division defence at the way for a Mortimer was deflected; marginally. Anything other than the reply can cause havoc to the system.

half
other
oving
een's
City.
West
ore

Duck.
Taylor, W.
Pike, sub.
nings, T.
ASTON VILLA: J. Burdett
man, J. Robson.
Nicholl, D. Martin.
Lilue, A. Gray, A. Cropper.
Smith, F. Carroon.
Reference: A. W. Gray
(on-sea).

Scottish premier

0	Hibernian	0	Aberdeen
0	Kilmarnock	7	Celtic
1	Motherwell	2	Ayr United
4	Rangers	3	Harris
1		P	W
1	Celtic	17	11

td	6	Aberdeen	19	9	4	8
	7	Rangers	19	9	4	8
A	11	Dundee Utd	17	2	12	8
1	73	Hibernian	18	2	12	8
3	31	Hearts	19	4	8	7
0	30	Motherwell	18	5	5	5
7	35	Portsmouth	17	4	4	4
		Perth	15	5	4	10

19	0	6	12
19	2	6	12
Scottish first division			
Arbroath	1	51	Milton
Dumfries	1	1	Hamilton

24	Fairlie	0	Morton
26	Falkirk	0	Dundee
27	Montrose	3	Clydebank
24	Queen of South	2	Falkirk
21	St Johnstone	1	Airdrieonians
20			
19			

Scottish second division

17	Alloa Athletic	0	Barwick
16	Clyde	0	Stirling
15	Meadowbank	0	Dunfermline
14	Onions Park	2	F. Stirling
13	Strathgairn	3	Forfar

SCHOOLS MATCHES: 1st
mouth 1, Torquay GS 4; C
King's, Brixton 0; Hammon 2

Hingale O. D. S. O. R. S.
 Willey O. Brandy N. L.
 London Univ. Students I.
 Licensed Victuallers I.
 Manor O. Harrow Wold S.
 Farnborough S. Farou O. S.
 Drayton Manor I. Westm.
 Charles H. H. H. H.

.....

King did not run.
 1.45: 3. Free Wish (9-2); 2. Tony
 (1-1); 3. Rosini's Garden (evens
 fav).
 2.15: 1. Bronco's II (7-4 fav); 2.
 Coparu (10-1); 3. Dunrobin (9-1).
 10 ran. Senior Wrangler did not
 run.
 2.45: 1. Miss Fannacott (9-2); 2.
 Rufford (10-1); 3. New Henry (8-1).
 14 ran. Beavalia 2-1 fav.
 3.15: 1. Fair Kitty (8-11 fav); 2.
 Midee (5-1); 3. Classic Gem (13-2).
 15 ran.

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The office building at Hereengracht, Amsterdam, acquired by a consortium of British pension funds.

Warehouse demand in Brussels

Turnover in the Continental
property market is still fairly
steady, according to reports
from British agents. Bernard
Thorpe and C. De Wandeleer
SA say that during the past
four months there has been an
upsurge of inquiries from
international companies requiring
modern warehouse accommodation
in the Brussels area, but the
prospective tenants are being
far more demanding in their
requirements and are taking
longer to make decisions.

Among recent transactions
through these agents are the
disposal of two units on the
newly completed 7,800 sq
metre development by SA
Dellin, a development company
owned by Entreprises Jacques
Dellin, SA, the general contractor
of Brussels, at Zelike, the
north-western suburb of the
city. Quaker Oats have
taken a unit of 1,320 sq metres,
together with 480 sq metres of
offices, and Lee Cooper, the
manufacturers of jeans, have
taken a similar sized unit with
offices.

Rents are just over 1,100 BF
a sq metre a year for the warehouse
space and 1,380 BF a
sq metre for the offices.
Bernard Thorpe and C. De
Wandeleer, who introduced the
site to the developers and
advised on the development,
are sole letting agents and will
act as selling agents for the
investment when the development
is fully let. Richard Ellis
acted jointly in the two
lettings.

Also in Belgium, Distriboch
SA, of Brussels, wholesalers
of china and tableware and a
subsidiary of Boch SA, have
bought the former Belgian
headquarters of Spur Inter-
national on the Nineties
industrial estate, some 20 km
metres south of the capital.
The nine-year-old property,
which changed hands at about

12.5m BF, consists of 1,300 sq
metres of light industrial space
and 390 sq metres of offices
on a site of 2.65 hectares.
Jones Lang Wootton, who
acted for Spur, comment that
with the high cost of building
today there is an increasing
interest from industrialists in
the purchase of premises
capable of modernization.
Distriboch are planning to
extend their new premises.
In Amsterdam the Singer
and Friedlander European
Property Trust, a consortium
of United Kingdom pension
funds, has acquired the office
investment on 538-600 Here-
engracht. The property is in the
banking area and is occupied
by a leading Dutch bank. It
has a total floor area of 2,400
sq metres. The purchase price
was 2.9m DFL. The yield on
the investment is about 91 per
cent. Allport and Co, the trust's
advisers, acted in the nego-
tiations, and the Amsterdam
office of Richard Ellis were
the selling agents.

In this country the United
Kingdom subsidiary of the 3M
Company, of St Paul, Minne-
sota, US, has exchanged agree-
ments with the Bracknell
Development Corporation for
the establishment of a new
headquarters building in Brack-
nell town centre. The complex
will consist of the existing
office building known as Win-
chester House and extensions
on an adjoining three-acre site
over the next 10 years.

Winchester House consists of
116,000 sq ft net of offices
which, together with the pro-
posed extensions, will eventu-
ally provide 3M with between
250,000 and 300,000 sq ft.
The new buildings will be con-
structed under a ground lease
from the corporation and the
company will also be carrying
out extensive alterations to
Winchester House. 3M were
advised by Partners Sir and
Partners and the development
corporation by Healey and
Baker and Jones Lang Wootton.
A further letting has taken
place on Property Services
Investment Trust's development
on the Heavend Industrial
Estate at Ashford, Kent.
Batchelors Foods have taken
two warehouses totalling about
36,000 sq ft. That leaves only
one unit of 22,000 sq ft to be
let. It includes an office block
of 4,000 sq ft and a rent of
£1.25 a sq ft is expected. Other
tenants include Boots Farm
Sales and Burton Reproduction.

Furniture. Letting agents are
Henry Burcher and Co.

Due for completion shortly
is a new office and warehouse
development in Osterpool Way,
Watford, Hertfordshire, by
Kenneth Needs (Contractors)
Ltd. Designed by Lister Drew
and Associates, the building is
within 450 yards of Junction 5
of the M 1. It consists of a
single-storey warehouse of
28,340 sq ft and a front and
rear two-storey office block
totalling 9,700 sq ft. A rent of
£85,000 a year is being asked
through Smith Melnick and Co.
Grosvener Square Properties
have let their recently com-
pleted scheme at Stonebridge
Park, at the junction of the
North Circular Road and
Harrow Road, known as the
Brentfield Development. De-
signed by R. Selfert and
Partners, it consists of two
adjoining office blocks with a
total net area of 118,000 sq ft.
The entire accommodation has
been taken by Sperry Rand,
for occupation by the UK and
European divisions of Sperry
Univac, the computer company
within the group. Sperry Rand
is the UK subsidiary of the
Sperry Rand Corporation of the
United States.

The company occupies 11
separate buildings in the
London area, and will be
vacating six as a result of the
letting. Rent of the new build-
ing is about £5.50 a sq ft.
Jones Lang Wootton were con-
sultants to Grosvener Square
Properties and let the building
jointly with Leighton Goldfinch.
The scheme was undertaken on
a ground lease of 125 years
from the London Transport
Executive.

Canon Assurance has sold a
freehold reversionary invest-
ment in one of the main shop-
ping streets in Derby. The
property is at 38/44 St Peter's
Street and comprises two units
which are let to Wakefields
Stores and Henderson-Kentrop
(Furnishings) Ltd on full re-
pairing and insuring leases
with reversion to 1978 and
1979. Current rental income is
about £22,000 a year and the
investment is understood to
have changed hands at about
£450,000. The property was
sold by the New Court Property
Fund. Drivers
Jones introduced the proposal
to the fund and acted for it.
Conrad Ribbitt and Co acted
for Canon Assurance.

Gerard Ely

LEGAL NOTICES

In the Matter of The Companies
Act, 1948 up to 1967 and in the
Matter of The Companies
Act, 1967. Notice is hereby
given pursuant to Section 204
of the Companies Act, 1967, that
a GENERAL MEETING of the
members of the above-named
company will be held at the Office
of the Liquidator, Messrs
W. H. Cork, Gully & Co., Char-
tered Accountants, 10, Abchurch
Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on
Monday, 30th January 1977, at
12 noon for the purpose of re-
ceiving and assenting to the
Liquidator's Account and De-
clarations and of the conduct of
the winding-up of the company.
Dated this 17th day of January,
1977.
M. A. JORDAN,
Liquidator.

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the winding-up of the company.
Dated this 17th day of January,
1977.
R. W. CORK,
Liquidator.

EDUCATIONAL

QUALIFIED TUTOR REQUIRED for
English, French, Latin, Greek,
History and German. Evening
classes in Richmond/Twickenham
area. Salary £4,500 p.a. plus
benefits. Tel: 01-892 0492
9106 day; 01-892 0492 even.

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

ELETROSUL CENTRAIS ELETRICAS DO SUL DO BRASIL S.A. (SUBSIDIARY OF ELETTROBRAS)

OPERATIONS SYSTEM CENTRE —230 AND 500 KV TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS—

PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE TO MANUFACTURERS OF ANALOG LOAD-FREQUENCY CONTROL SYSTEM AND TONE EQUIPMENT (TELEMETERING AND CONTROL)

Centrais Eletricas do Sul do Brasil S.A.—Eletrosul will invite bids from qualified
manufacturers (selected through the pre-qualification to which this notice refers)
for the supply of the following groups of equipments:—

- Analog Master Station for the Load-Frequency Control System.
- Terminal Stations for Telemetering.
- Terminal Stations for Power Plant Automatic Generation Control.

SECOND GROUP —Tone Equipments (Telemetering and Control) for Inter- face of existing Power Line Carrier Equipment.

A loan has recently been approved by the International Bank for Reconstruction and
Development (IBRD) to finance the purchase of the above mentioned equipment.
Participation in the pre-qualification will be limited to manufacturers from member
countries of the IBRD and Switzerland.
The "Instructions for Pre-qualification Proposals" will be available to the applicants,
free of charge, until February 28, 1977, at the following address:—

Centrais Eletricas do Sul do Brasil S.A.—Eletrosul
DIRETORIA ADMINISTRATIVA
EDIFICIO TRAJANO
RUA TRAJANO, 41-3-ANDAR
88.000-FLORIANOPOLIS-SANTA CATARINA-BRASIL
TELEX 0482184

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY
TENDERS FOR PROOF-
CLOTHING
Tenders are invited for the supply
of police waterproof clothing for the
period 1st April, 1977 to 31st
March, 1978.
Tenders should be submitted to the
Police Constable, P.O. Box 77, Police
Headquarters, Preston, Lancashire.
Completed tenders to be submitted
to the County Hall, Preston, Lancashire,
not later than Wednesday, 2nd March, 1977.
PARR,
Chief Constable.

COMPANY NOTICES

BANK LEUONI LE-BEASL, B.M.
(Incorporated in Israel)
Notice is hereby given that an
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL
MEETING of the Bank will be held
at the registered office of the Bank,
Venezia Soley Street, Tel-Aviv, on
14th day of February, 1977, at
10.00 a.m. for the purpose of
considering if it should be
resolving the following Resolution as a
Resolution of the Bank:
"Resolved that the capital of the
Bank be increased from 1,000,000
new shares of IL 1 each to 1,250,000 new shares of IL 1
each and that such increase shall
upon being issued and fully paid, be
converted into 250,000 new shares of
IL 5 each."
By Order of the Board,
Z. BERNHEIM, Secretary.

THE NIPPON VIDEOSAN
BANK, LIMITED
U.S. \$15,000,000 Notes due
Notice is hereby given that no Notes
of the above bank are to be redeemed
during the period 15th January
1977 to 15th February 1977, in-
cluding the day of redemption, in
which leaves a deficiency of 1,000
copies of the Notes.
The Notes are to be redeemed on the
15th day of February 1977, at the
office of the bank, 100, Strand,
London, W.C.2R.
24th January, 1977.

BLUE BELL, INC.

U.S. \$20,000,000 7 1/2 per cent
Debentures 1987
The annual interest on the
debentures of Blue Bell, Inc. for
the financial year ended 30th
September 1976, will be paid
on 15th February 1977, at the
office of the bank, 100, Strand,
London, W.C.2R.
24th January, 1977.

NEW FOREST

Character house, converted 1969, rendered elevations and
a Welsh slate roof.
Spacious accommodation comprising entrance hall, lounge with
fireplace, dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 double bedrooms,
one with built-in wardrobe, en suite, planning permission
for fourth, fully tiled bathroom.
Oil central heating, double glazing, excellent decorative order.
Attached double garage.
Approx. 1 1/2 acres including paddock, lawn and terrace.
Direct access to forest.
£42,500
Tel: 01753 848508

Country property

Country property

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Property

Properties under £25,000

Unique Opportunity—Fully Furnished and Equipped Modern Flats for Sale in W2

94-year leases on studio and 2-bedroom flats consisting of en-
trance hall, 1 or 2 rooms, tiled bathroom, open-plan kitchen with
cooker, fridge, stainless steel sink units, waste disposal extractor
hoods, kitchen cabinets, telephone, door intercom, fitted carpets.
Gas central heating.
Additionally at no extra charge modern tasteful furniture in each
flat may be taken over.

STUDIO £8,950 2 ROOMS £12,000

MODERN CONVERSIONS LTD

01-458 5488 Office Hours; 01-794 2188 outside Office Hours

LITTLE VENICE

Lovely spacious maisonette newly
decorated and carpeted. 3 bed-
rooms, 2 bathrooms, living room,
dining room, kitchen. New 9 year
lease. £2,000 per annum. Con-
tents £7,000.
Tel: 723 5640 or 045-267 32-33

PIED-A-TERRA CHISWICK

Ideally situated for access to
City, M4 and Heathrow. Attract-
ive 140 sq. ft. house, 3 bedrooms,
ground floor studio flat in
pleasant village house. 100 ft.
in region of £15,750. Central &
Provincial. 100 ft. in region of
£15,750 day, 01753 5170 even-
ings.

12 year lease for sale privately, £12,000.

Tel: 235 6386

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Appointments Vacant

ADVERTISING, ADVERTISING COPY, COPY IDEAS, IDEAS!

Somewhere there's a young person with real experience and the ambition to go a long way in the Advertising Promotion business. We want that person to join us now, and the right person will grow with us and command an increasing salary.

Ring Peter Cox on 01-493 7917

MANAGEMENT AND EXECUTIVES

OFFICE MANAGER

A sound administrative background is essential. The successful candidate will be responsible for all office administration, personnel, control, personnel and will supervise a staff of twelve. This International Company are at present opening a London branch and hence this position is a real opportunity. Call Mr. T. Armstrong on 01-493 7917.

GENERAL VACANCIES

TRADE UNION—ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Applications are invited for appointment as a trade union official in the area of the Secretary's office. The successful candidate will be responsible for all office administration, personnel, control, personnel and will supervise a staff of twelve. This International Company are at present opening a London branch and hence this position is a real opportunity. Call Mr. T. Armstrong on 01-493 7917.

RECRUITMENT

We are seeking an enthusiastic person with a minimum of 5 years experience in recruitment. The successful candidate will be responsible for all office administration, personnel, control, personnel and will supervise a staff of twelve. This International Company are at present opening a London branch and hence this position is a real opportunity. Call Mr. T. Armstrong on 01-493 7917.

ADP—PART OF RANDSTAD INTERNATIONAL.

TRAINEE

Private Bank in Belgium. We are seeking an enthusiastic person with a minimum of 5 years experience in recruitment. The successful candidate will be responsible for all office administration, personnel, control, personnel and will supervise a staff of twelve. This International Company are at present opening a London branch and hence this position is a real opportunity. Call Mr. T. Armstrong on 01-493 7917.

Kendal & Dent Ltd.

Bankers in London. 13 Motcomb Street, S.W.1.

YOUTH TOWN APPEAL OFFICERS

For Help the Aged Youth Campaign. We are seeking an enthusiastic person with a minimum of 5 years experience in recruitment. The successful candidate will be responsible for all office administration, personnel, control, personnel and will supervise a staff of twelve. This International Company are at present opening a London branch and hence this position is a real opportunity. Call Mr. T. Armstrong on 01-493 7917.

PRE-UNIVERSITY STUDENT

For temporary work with major City Client. Ring Mr. T. Armstrong on 01-493 7917.

GENERAL VACANCIES

AGENCY RECRUITMENT

LONDON EC2 or SLOUGH

As the largest UK Group of employment agencies for professional and technical staff, we are seeking an enthusiastic person with a minimum of 5 years experience in recruitment. The successful candidate will be responsible for all office administration, personnel, control, personnel and will supervise a staff of twelve. This International Company are at present opening a London branch and hence this position is a real opportunity. Call Mr. T. Armstrong on 01-493 7917.

PERSONNEL

Limited. 65 Moorgate, EC2.

These positions have arisen through our continued expansion.

EXPERIENCED people wanted for Asia and Africa. You're single, 20-30 and like the work. Ring Mr. T. Armstrong on 01-493 7917.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

ALAN GAY Local Staff, the specialist consultants to the profession. Offer a confidential service to employers and staff at all levels. For more details, call Mr. T. Armstrong on 01-493 7917.

LONDON LEGAL BUREAU. Specialist recruitment service for legal professionals. For more details, call Mr. T. Armstrong on 01-493 7917.

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD RADCLIFFE SCIENCE LIBRARY (The Scientific Department of the Bodleian Library) POST OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN (Accessions)

Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Librarian (Accessions) which will fall vacant on 1st April, 1977.

Candidates should have a good honours degree and several years experience, including a good knowledge of contemporary scientific literature, particularly foreign sciences; familiarity with one or more modern languages is desirable. Duties will include supervision of accessions, registration and binding. The salary scale runs from £3,333 to £5,655 with an efficiency bar at £5,627. Posting on the scale will depend on age and experience.

Applications should be received not later than 7th February, 1977, by the Secretary of the Library, Bodleian Library, Oxford OX1 3BG. Further details may be obtained from the Keeper of Scientific Books, Radcliffe Science Library, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QP.

STILL LOOKING FOR A TEACHING POSITION?

If you have finished training, as a TEACHER, and are having trouble in finding a position, contact us. We are looking for a young person with good COMMONSENSE, and preferably with a German and/or Economics background.

We are a trading company which has links with Germany, and can offer a very interesting job.

Starting salary £3,000 p.a., pension scheme, location Croydon area.

Box 0041 J, The Times

University of Warwick

LECTURESHP IN THEATRE STUDIES

Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in the Department of Theatre Studies, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, from 1st October, 1977. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching of theatre studies to students on the B.A. (Hons) in Theatre Studies and the M.A. in Theatre Studies. The salary scale for Lecturers in the Department ranges from £4,500 to £6,500 p.a. depending on age and experience. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, Department of Theatre Studies, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, or from the University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, or from the University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL.

Applications should be submitted by 1st March, 1977.

Quoted ref. CR T.

Magdalene and Queens' Colleges

CAMBRIDGE

The Colleges propose to make a joint recruitment for a post of Lecturer in Mathematics in the Department of Mathematics, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 3PQ, from 1st October, 1977. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching of mathematics to students on the B.A. (Hons) in Mathematics and the M.A. in Mathematics. The salary scale for Lecturers in the Department ranges from £4,500 to £6,500 p.a. depending on age and experience. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, Department of Mathematics, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 3PQ, or from the University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 3PQ, or from the University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 3PQ.

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Local Government, Public and Educational Appointments

Headmaster of the RHODES TRUST

Rhodes House, Oxford

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

University of Oxford

John P Mackintosh

Economic failure, not ideology, is at the root of our political difficulties

There is a paradox about British politics just now which has led people to ask questions about our political machinery and to canvass various new remedies from conditions to proportional representation to primaries for choosing parliamentary candidates to Bills of Rights.

The paradox is that Britain is not seething with ideology yet the two main parties are moving further into the control of the extremists in their own ranks. As one goes around the country it seems clear that when, as now, the electorate are deeply disturbed by a sense of national failure, they move towards the political centre, they prefer caution, and they suspect all theoretical solutions. While many feel that British industry has let them down, very few accept that the public ownership of the economy is a disaster. If a socialist of this kind stood on such a policy at an election, no one supposes he or she would get more than a handful of votes.

On the other side, the bulk of Conservative supporters no longer think a simple return to private enterprise will solve all problems or that this nation's difficulties stem simply from the wickedness of a Labour Party which has failed to give the upper classes to govern the country.

Yet despite this tendency of voters to huddle together in

the centre, trends within the parties seem to be going in the opposite direction. The Tribune left in the Labour Party now attracts some 80 votes, it controls the national executive and Transport House and, looking at the nominations for re-election in safe seats at the next election, is likely to get stronger. It is almost certain that the choice of Mr Callaghan's successor will no longer be left to Labour MPs but will be "broadened" to give a greater voice to the unions and to constituency activists.

In the Conservative Party, extreme right-wing populists are gaining ground. Sir Keith Joseph, Mr Biffen, Mr Teddy Taylor, Mr Heselgrave and Dr Rhodes Boyson are preferred, while Mr Peter Walker and Mr Nicholas Scott are left outside. Mr Fincham, who led the party in the first time since the war, Conservatives can be heard saying that the whole experiment initiated by the Beveridge Report was a mistake and should be abandoned. It is significant that the two most impressive men in the House of Commons, Mr Heath and Mr Jenkins, are both too moderate, too near the centre for their parties, and both have been frozen out of the government by the Labour Party which has failed to give the upper classes to govern the country.

Board, the insistence on comprehensive policies in education, give up an incomes policy and so on. The Labour Party will fight these tooth and nail and promise to take another "irreversible step" towards a full socialist state if and when they return to power.

Given this gap between what the politicians are likely to do and what the public appear to want, it is inevitable that people should wonder whether something has gone wrong with the machinery of representative government. Does the party structure, which leaves nominations (and dismissals) in the hands of tiny groups of activists, produce unrepresentative selections? Does the exclusion of the Opposition from any contact with governmental problems encourage simple, sweeping commitments? Are MPs tied too tightly to manifestos they had no share in devising and then to party voting? Is it sensible to give absolute majorities in the Commons to parties winning under 40 per cent of the votes cast? Are governments too weak in the face of pressure groups with narrow, selfish interests?

While the answers to many of these questions may be in the affirmative and, if some of these reforms were carried through, the public's views might be better represented, it is another matter to suggest that any combination of these institutional inadequacies has caused the present polarization

within the parties. After all, these features of the British political system were in existence during the 1950s when the outcome was very different and the parties were operating quite satisfactorily within margins which led commentators to talk of "Butskellism".

This change in the political atmosphere between the 1950s and 1970s has not taken place in the United States or in Germany. In these countries, the recent Carter-Ford election and the Schmidt-Kohl election both showed that major parties could struggle for power while accepting similar assumptions about the structure of the society and the economy.

Having been involved in both the practice and study of politics throughout this period, it seems to me that the fundamental reason for the different development in Britain has been the relative failure of the British economy. The case that Chancellor Schmidt put to the German electorate in 1976 was much the same as that put by Mr Gaiskill in 1933, but in Britain such arguments would sound very dated now. The social democratic case that if the state provides suitable conditions, the mixed economy will prosper and then the extra wealth can be used to make the society more egalitarian, is hard to make simply because it has not worked. Successive Labour governments have tried indicative planning, "little Neddies", investment incentives and national enterprise

boards with little success. It is this economic failure that has undermined the position of the social democrats in the Labour Party, although they have far more electoral support than the left.

In any debate, if the question is "How will you get the private sector to respond to your sticks, carrots, incentives, aids and exhortations?" there is no answer. The left is getting stronger because, however improbably its techniques of far more detailed and widespread state control, at least it has a distinctive, non-Tory solution to offer.

And the same weakness saps the moderate Tories. Mr Heath's government, after a rocky start, got taxes, negotiated an incomes policy with the unions, stopped some forms of welfare payments and then waited for the investment boom. But it never happened and in the end he and his senior colleagues were on very bad terms with industry and were talking about "the unacceptable face of capitalism".

Again, moderate Tories can say little in response to attacks from their own right over the failure of the mixed economy. However improbable the revival of industrial investment and productivity, if the Friedmanite policy of monetarism and of making people pay for their health and education were pursued, at least it is a distinctive, non-left wing answer to the central issue of

the decline in productivity, in investment and in the numbers employed in manufacturing industry.

Many will protest that these failures are the fault of bad labour relations or bad labour laws, of governments chopping and changing their policies and of lack of incentives. No doubt there is something in these points but they are not originating causes—they may have made matters a little worse. But some companies and some countries have done well in the face of tougher unions, higher taxes and major institutional changes.

Probably the answers lie deeper in the structure of British society, in the reluctance to innovate, the preference for a relaxed approach to life, in the tendency for the ablest to go into academic, administrative and professional work and in the lack of any convincing popular defence of or justification of our current economic system.

If this is so, then however valuable some changes in the political machinery might be, the real task is for all sectors of society to come to some conclusion about the nature of these underlying problems and to decide whether there is a national desire to tackle them. A combination of a few institutional innovations and of North Sea oil will not do the trick.

The author is Labour MP for Berwick and East Lothian.

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New Greek course may be the kiss of life for a dead language

Two years ago it looked as if Classical Greek was dying out as a language to be studied in schools. Now there is a ray of hope for those who feel that a study of a dead language and of a civilization long departed has still a great deal of relevance to today's teenagers.

Two years ago yesterday, Dr Michael Ramsey, former Archbishop of Canterbury, and nine other luminaries including the late Richard Crossman, Lord Boyle and Lord Annan, wrote a joint letter to *The Times* and launched an appeal to start a refreshing new start's course for Greek in the sixth form. It was to be run by the Joint Association of Classical Teachers, from its base at Hughes Hall, Cambridge.

Sir Desmond Lee, president of Hughes Hall, and fundraiser-in-chief, was asking for £40,000 and warned directly that Greek would go the same way as Hebrew in 15 years unless something was done about it. The project raised £55,000 by 1975, and when it was found that another £20,000 was needed, Sir Desmond managed speedily to raise it.

The director of the Greek project is Dr Peter Jones, a 34-year-old Cambridge don who graduated from Fitzwilliam College. His two assistants, Dr Keith Sidwell and Miss Frances Corrie, are also Cambridge alumni. They have produced a two-year two-hour-a-week course. The first half will be published by the Cambridge University Press in 1978.

The course in draft form has already been tried out at summer schools, secondary schools and sixth form colleges as well as by university departments in Britain and also by colleges and schools in the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

Time was when to know little Latin and less Greek would have caused a blush in society. Now it is the other way round. Thorstein Veblen, an American sociologist, fulminated against the classics in 1899. He wrote: "The classical education of the privileged few is a position of prerogative in the scheme of education to which the higher seminaries of learning cling with such fond predilection, serve to shape the intellectual attitude and lower the economic efficiency of the new learned generation."

Many may diagnose the growth of Britain's economic dependence on a surplus of Greek in the minds of young students. If that were so, we should now be well on the way to economic recovery.

For the rot in the classics had well set in even as Veblen was expounding. In 1923 the school inspector reported that only 1,215 students a year sat school certificates in Greek. They went on to say: "The position of Greek is precarious; it is not taught to an increasing proportion of boys in public schools. In the secondary schools and in girls' schools it is generally being begun, if at all, only at a late age and frequently not till the post-matriculation stage is reached, while in many schools and in some areas there are no facilities for teaching it at all."

During the next 50 years the proportion of schoolchildren taking public examinations in Greek deteriorated slowly as the tide turned towards the pure sciences and then the social sciences. Private schools grimly held on to Greek as a preferred option. In 1956 I was faced at the age of 12 with a choice of Greek or Geography. I dropped Geography because I found it much more difficult, only to drop Greek six years later when faced with the composition of Greek hexameters.

Now fewer than 200 schools offer Greek and these are almost all independent schools. The final assault on the future of Greek came with the swift change to comprehensive schools after 1965.

The end of many a grammar school, the changing of many new comprehensive schools to mixed-ability classes, meant the death-knell for Greek and Latin as an O-level subject.

One event I hope not in the list of jubilees published in *Han* week is the June 28 Review at Spitehead contemplation.

Tim Education Court

Gladstone's crusade against 'evil' public spending

"An excess in the public expenditure beyond the legitimate wants of the country, is not only a pecuniary waste, but a great political, and above all, a great moral evil. It is a characteristic of the mischiefs that arise from financial prodigality that they creep onwards with a noiseless and a stealthy step, that they commonly remain unseen and unfelt, until they have reached a magnitude absolutely overwhelming."

At a time when many people feel that public expenditure has got out of control, W. E. Gladstone's observations on the subject have a distinct relevance. They reflect a dedication to the cause of cheap government which it is interesting, perhaps even salutary, to consider at the beginning of a year in which the Government is committed to reducing its spending drastically.

Victorian governments were conspicuously more successful in keeping their spending down than those of more recent times. They actually reduced the national debt, which stood at the end of the nineteenth century at only three quarters of what it had been in the aftermath of the Napoleonic wars.

While in the rest of Europe

annual public expenditure per head of the population tripled between 1820 and 1870, in Britain it rose only slightly from £57,500,000 to £69m. As a fraction of the gross national product, public spending fell steadily from 16½ per cent in 1830 to just under 9 per cent in 1890.

The main cause of this low level of public spending was the reluctance of Victorian administrations to become involved in economic and social affairs and in the management of industry. Britain was the only country in the world in the nineteenth century where the government played no part in creating or financing the railway system.

On those rare occasions when the government did intervene in the running of industry, it was always with the minimum possible outlay of money. The implementation of the Earl of Shaftesbury's famous Act of 1842 forbidding the employment of women and children in underground mines was for many years left in the hands of just one single inspector, and the entire Home Office department responsible for the regulation and inspection of factories cost a mere £12,000 a year to run in the 1860s.

It was not until the last decades of the nineteenth century that the advent of a com-

pulsory education system brought a new kind of charge on the Exchequer, and even then it represented only a tiny fraction of total government spending.

Throughout the Victorian period the largest single item in the annual budgets was defence and the repayment of interest on the national debt, which together accounted for more than three quarters of public expenditure.

The ruling principle of Victorian finance—that budgets should be balanced at the highest possible level—was established by the two greatest Chancellors of the Exchequer of the age, Peel and Gladstone. Peel laid the foundations of cheap government in his budget of 1842, which transferred a £2m deficit into surplus. He reversed the increase in the national debt, which had begun during the wars against France at the beginning of the century and continued under the reckless mismanagement of "Whigs" in the 1830s, by shifting the main source of revenue from indirect to direct taxation.

By reintroducing income tax, which Pitt had introduced as a temporary expedient during the French wars, Peel was able not only to reduce the national debt but also to build up a steady budgetary surplus.

Gladstone, who served his political apprenticeship under Peel and followed his financial methods closely, probably did more than any one else to establish the Victorian tradition of economy in government. He was associated with the Treasury as Chancellor of the Exchequer and as First Lord, for a total of 24 years and presented 13 budgets between 1853 and 1882.

He was determined that public spending should be financed out of taxation rather than borrowing and that its cost should never be carried over from one year to another. Like Peel, he relied on income tax, although he hoped always that it could eventually be abolished. He regarded it as a temptation to governments to spend extravagantly.

The heavy cost of the Crimean War forced Gladstone to borrow and to raise income tax to 1s. 4d. in the £. But during the 1860s, through a savage attack on a play written by the Treasury, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, he reduced annual government spending from £73m to £66m and by 1874 he had brought income tax down to 2d in the £.

In that year he went to the polls as a programme involving the abolition of income tax but the electorate did not share his passion for economy and vastly reduced naval and

military expenditure and voted in the Conservatives. Gladstone's last budget in 1882, however, income tax was still only 4d in the £.

Within government Gladstone vigorously pursued the cause of economy. He ruthlessly eliminated unnecessary public offices. When he heard that a clerk in the Debt Office was dyed, he sent an urgent note to the Prime Minister saying that there was no need to replace him.

He once began a speech at Greenwich somewhat tactlessly by announcing that he had sacked 1,463 superfluous clerks and workmen in the naval dockyards. He tried to persuade Secretaries of State and High Court judges to take a cut in pay. The smallest savings were important to Gladstone.

He wrote: "It is the mark of a chicken-hearted Chancellor when he shrinks from resigning the office to resign the office. It is a question of only £2,000 or £3,000, he says that is no matter. He is not worth his salt if he is not ready to save what are meant by candle ends and cheese parings in the cause of the country."

True to this principle, Gladstone ordered the Foreign Office to use single rather than double sheets for its despatches and insisted on re-

using the labels on diplomatic bags when he was on an official visit to Corfu in 1858. He scrupulously paid for the headed notepaper that he used for private letters during his time in Downing Street. Not even expenditure on the monarchy escaped his censure. On visits to Balmoral and Windsor he invariably wrote to his wife warning her of the "haired of the fine sheets".

The Victorian tradition of cheap government was destroyed by the need for rearmament in the face of the German threat at the end of the nineteenth century. Naval expenditure alone quadrupled between 1885 and 1914 and by the outbreak of the First World War the government had been forced to borrow £50 million to pay for it. Significantly, it was his opposition to the huge naval estimates in the 1890s, budget proposals that caused Gladstone to resign the premiership for the last time.

The demands of defence, soon to be followed by the burden of providing state unemployment benefit, old age pensions and health insurance, were to create that steady creep forwards of public expenditure which he so much dreaded and which we are suffering the effects of today.

Ian Bradley

How much of China's trouble was inherited from Mao?

The recent bickering among the leaders about who did what in the various stages of the "last days of Mao" struggle was only going on, expected. The rehabilitation of Teng Hsiao-ping who was so obviously the most dramatic casualty of the first clash that came with Chou En-lai's death a year ago was also unavoidable. And that must necessarily have involved a man who got his job then and thus finished up leading in the last lap of the race to the Chairman's seat—Comrade Hua Kuo-feng. The relative status of Mr Hua and Mr Teng in the new Chinese hierarchy may now have been settled amicably.

But does that end the surviving resentments? It is fair to ask the other question that cannot and will not be asked in China: what blame, for what or what on, attaches to Mao Tse-tung?

To answer the question in terms of past policy differences would be tedious and

somewhat misleading. The more relevant question is the relationship Mao had with his senior colleagues and his treatment of them. (In parenthesis it might be said that there is no question of the "execution" of Chiang Ching and the rest: Mao set his face against such behaviour far back. Whatever suffering party outcasts have endured they have never had to fear for their lives.)

Two points in Mao's leadership stand out. That he never at any time had any close confidants or sympathizers, partly from a reserved, withdrawn personality, partly, perhaps, from the sense of detachment he thought appropriate to a supreme leader. The second point, much more amply documented, was Mao's persistent, constantly repeated, relentless attacks on his opponents in the party. Very many party speech or editorial almost to the last day rehearsed once again the list of party struggles to prove that Mao was right and his

opponents not merely wrong, but an inveterate revisionist (or whatever was the fashionable term of abuse current). The two lines of the past two years—his struggles past party history. But of the most recent struggles three must be present in everybody's minds. So if the question of Teng Hsiao-ping's rehabilitation is raised, what is to be said about Peng Teh-huai, about Liu Shao-chi and Lin Biao? If Teng Hsiao-ping's second fall was an incident of Mao's severity that can easily be blamed on the "gang of four", was his first fall in the cultural revolution not a party headquarters in which Liu Shao-chi fell?

But let us start with Peng Teh-huai, who had commanded Chinese troops in Korea and was Minister of Defence at the time of his downfall. At the central committee's plenum in August 1959, he attacked Mao's policies resulting in his dismissal and dis-

grace. Outwardly, Mao seemed to have carried the day. But in 1965 the first shot fired in the cultural revolution was the attack on a play written by Wu Han the deputy mayor of Peking: *Hai Ju's Dismissal*, in fact based on a minister of the Ming dynasty but said to be a thinly disguised version of the Peng Teh-huai case.

In the play the minister said to the Emperor: "In earlier times you did quite a few good things, but now you are too dogmatic and prejudiced. You think you are always right and refuse criticism. Your feudalism has been discredited, and the truer and outer ministers and officers all know it."

We can only guess how many of the senior officials who read this (it had been published some years before it was attacked at the end of

1965) felt thus strongly about Mao's leadership. Not a few is perhaps a safe answer.

For Liu Shao-chi, the number of experienced and highly regarded men who fell in his wake during the cultural revolution is evidence enough that there were far more in the upper ranks of the party who sympathized with him than did with Mao. So far as one can tell, the Lin Biao case is not basically different in the expressed attitude to Mao. That Lin had his own ambitions and tried to seize power is certainly credible and his overthrow would follow from that. But seemingly authentic documents exposing the Lin plot also describe Mao as a dogmatic leader who would not listen to criticism.

In the minds of well-informed Chinese officials, Mao's membership of the Politburo since 1956, say 300,000 to take 1 per cent of all party members—is there much to distinguish those who have been rehabilitated and those who have not? If the opposition to Mao in the party

was steadily building up from 1959 onwards, as the evidence suggests, where does one draw the line? Not Lin, perhaps, but what of Peng sure?

Ever since he "assumed" he still lacks any constitutional status—the chairmanship of the party, Mr Hua Kuo-feng has been treading his tightrope with the utmost care. Maoism must go on and not be seen to be overturned in any particular way. But now that Mr Teng has come off the list of the damned and may be confirmed in a rank second only to Chairman Hua what of the others? Lin, Liu and Peng remain on the blacklist—for example, in the eulogy of Chou En-lai published on the anniversary of his death. So who will take the decisions in such delicate matters? Mr Teng's membership of the Politburo dates from 1956. Mr Hua's seniority runs only from 1973. One can easily see the difficulties.

Richard Harris

The Times Diary

Living in clover amid the shamrock

There cannot be many successful English authors still living in England. Apart from James Herriot and Edward Heath, who have other jobs to keep them here, most of our best-selling writers seem to have fled from the rapacity of succeeding Chancellors of the Exchequer, who would otherwise claw back up to four fifths of their royalties. Alastair Macdonald has taken refuge in Switzerland, Arthur Hailey in the Bahamas, Frederick Forsyth in Ireland.

Since 1969 the Republic of Ireland has been a particularly attractive bolt hole for creative artists, both British and American. In that year the then Minister of Finance, Charles Haughey, granted total exemption from income tax to all writers and artists living in the country, whether Irish or foreign. All they had to do was to submit a specimen work to the Revenue Commissioners to prove their bona fides; and if they already enjoyed an established reputation, they did not even have to do that.

From its introduction up to

the end of last October, the scheme had attracted 897 applications, two thirds of them from authors and playwrights. The Revenue Commissioners, instructed to give the benefit of doubt wherever possible, had passed 637.

There are no statistics to show how many of the applicants have come from non-Irish citizens, but it is difficult to move far in Ireland without bumping into a British tax exile. Alan Hamilton went there to discover how authors are coping with their wealth, and he reports:

Malcolm Macdonald wrote his first novel, *The World from Rough Stones*, in a flat near Weyburn Garden City. When his publishers read the manuscript they advised: "This is going to be a big seller; you should get away to Ireland at once." It proved good advice. The American paperback rights were sold for a near record \$380,000 and he reckons that in only two years as a full-time author he would have had to pay Denis Healey more than £50,000.

Instead, he has sunk his earnings in a ramshackle mansion and 15 acres of overgrown parkland at Banagher, a country town of 1,000 people on one of the less attractive stretches of the Shannon. It is where Anthony Trollope was once postmaster and Charlotte Brontë spent her honeymoon, but where not much else has ever happened.

"We were looking for a big old house in Yorkshire, but the prices were so depressing. When we saw this place advertised in *The Sunday Times* for £35,000. The seller had used a bit of poetic licence, especially about the ornamental lake, which turned out to be a puddle." Macdonald bargained the price down to £30,000 and bought it. Now he is investing thousands more to make it habitable after years of neglect.

But authors have to wait for their money, and Macdonald had to pay for his house in three instalments as the royalties trickled in. At the end of his first year he had an overdraft of £40,000, and we only got that because the assistant manager at the bank happened to read my book and like it. Everything I have earned has gone into this house. The day I visited him, his German wife Ingrid had just been on a massive shopping ex-

pedition to Ashlone, the nearest big town, 20 miles away. The electricity had been cut off for the laying of a new cable, the builder working on the house extension had come inside because it was pouring with rain, and his enormous Irish hound Keiran was trailing Macdonald about the house looking bored with the weather.

"You cannot just snap your fingers and get people to do things for you here, however much money you have," said built rock garden of plant boulders from a quarry. "They have their own priorities, and you have to wait until they are finished ploughing, or sowing, or cutting their own hedges." There are other drawbacks to living in the Irish country-

side. "If you want the paraphernalia of modern living, three television channels and good cheese, this is not the place for you," he warned me. The lack of good cheese in a country that is one big cattle ranch may be surprising, but it all goes to England. The cost of living is at least 20 per cent higher, and petrol will be over £1 a gallon by the end of this week.

But for Macdonald, the advantages outweigh the necessity of having to live with plastic chairs. At first, though, he came here with a mad suggestion, then I realized we had had 14 bomb scares in Wexford Garden City in two months. Banagher is as peaceful a place as you will find. Macdonald's second book, *The*

Rich are with you Always, written in his spectacularly untidy Irish style, is due out next month, and the need for the bank manager to read it will be less urgent this time.

He insists that he came to Ireland not only to avoid tax, but because he liked it and had found just the house he was looking for. "If your intention is to come here exclusively for tax reasons, forget it. Your life will be miserable because you won't belong."

The rain drizzled on. Keiran the wolfhound gazed miserably out of the window, and Macdonald returned to worrying about the spare part for his Austin Maxi which he ordered 18 months ago and which had apparently sunk without trace somewhere in the Irish Sea.

Next: *Alan Owen*

Happy days

Democrats Abroad gave a dinner dance at an hotel near the United States Embassy on Thursday night, to celebrate the inauguration of President Carter. What I enjoyed more than anything was the music accompanying the meal. It was splendidly tinkly snuff from a pianist, accompanied by a violinist in an elegant long dress. They made a fine job of our national anthem when the Queen was toasted, but were a

little shaky on *Happy Days Are Here Again*, with which they were required to accompany the toast to the new President.

There was a strong turnout of public figures. Roy Hattersley delivered a studiously diplomatic and admirably brief speech, and there were three of James Callaghan's aides from Downing Street.

The President's inaugural speech was played on videotape but seemed to disappoint most of the guests, many of whom laughed somewhat ungraciously when his telegram was read, saying he wished he could be with us. My hopes of getting some good inside gossip from the Downing Street folk collapsed because, owing to the noise of the dance band which replaced the tinkling duo, I could not hear the indiscretions they were letting drop. Hattersley motioned as though inviting me to dance, but I think he was joking.

Run down

Robin Young last went for a walk with Angela Taylor in June last year, when he joined a party she conducted on a historical tour of the noisy and unprepossessing Holloway Road. Yesterday she was leading a party of walkers on a tour of another blighted sec-

tion of the borough, and Young joined The subject this time Camden Passage and the

The walk, she said, was in memory of the Marston of past centuries. I stood in the doorway of Music Hall, burnt in 1958, and the gap was good in the topography. Kate Carney took my Chaplain. Then we saw Charles Lamb's house, murdered, to the dereliction behind the

We peered amongst peeling remains of the Philharmonia. The Theatre shrouded White Swan house, the empty Agricultural Hall, crumbling Lyons Corner undergoing emergency. All because, Miss Taylor, the authorities could not wait to do about it. The junction there have been jams 1850s.

One event I hope not in the list of jubilees published in *Han* week is the June 28 Review at Spitehead contemplation.

Tim Education Court



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LEADERS MAKING NATIONS

forthcoming elections in and Pakistan will reassure who insist that economic is only one part of the ss of liberation. At the very a government must be re- native and an election is f the few ways in which this five can be achieved. An fact way, certainly, in the tion of these countries limited horizons, illiteracy, izing social habits and more will militate against freedom of choice. But the though it may not be an measurable one—that in tries of Asia the number able to make such a con- choice as an election is increasing every year. long term that must make se for democracy.

he shorter term the path of al progress is less easily d. Few people can doubt parties Mrs Gandhi and unt lead will win the elec- that these two leaders comfortably confirmed in office. Both countries y share in a trend that has ed force throughout Asia past two decades. There ing ruling leaders, some- backed by long ruling s. Leaving out of account ymmunist countries which their own unacceptable tion of democracy there are ent Park Chung Hee of Korea, Mr Ne Win of ia, President Suharto of ilippines and Mr Lee Kuan of Singapore all of whom otched up more than a in office. Mrs Gandhi, is just begun her second as India's prime minister. Bhutto has the chequered stances of his country to a why he has not enjoyed a spell, no one can doubt tion or his ability to do

ically these countries

differ very much. Some of them have no glimmer of a democratic tradition. What they have in common is the task of building a nation and most leaders would argue that this needs continuity of effort and particularly of leadership. One familiar face and voice is the only way of capturing mass attention, for without that the masses can have little concept of nationhood. If pressed they might go on to add that nothing can be achieved by the constant interchange of parties or leaders that may result from democratic elections regularly held. They would point to a country like Sri Lanka and ask what political gain has followed on the alternating spells of power enjoyed by Mrs Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Free- dom Party and the United National Party, which first launched the island's independ- ence in 1948. They might even remark in passing the debate in some western countries over "adversary politics".

In the earlier period of post-independence Asian history, military takeovers were a common resort in face of alleged democratic weakness. Since then the continuity of political power and leadership has been main- tained by more peaceful and more subtle though not always non-violent methods. Declara- tions of emergency may be followed up by well-organized government parties, sometimes combined with restrictions on opposition parties, none of which is strong enough to make its protest effective since none has mass appeal.

Almost all leaders pay tribute to democracy and will say that their action is temporary and done only for the good of the country. Alternatively the rules of political debate and action are laid down. As Mrs Gandhi put it recently: "Once a government has been duly elected, its pro-

grammes are those of the entire nation. If the opposition do not approve of the programmes they may not help but they have no right simply to put up obstacles. To do that is a contempt of the people and the system of democracy."

This defines the most common response. Almost all developing countries regard criticism of their government as equally a slander on the nation. Govern- ment and nation are one, so long as the nation is felt to be immature or lacking in acknow- ledged international status. That this applies very forcibly indeed to any outside critic India has lately shown. The idea that the country can be favourably regarded while the actions of its government are criticized is not accepted.

The defence put forward for limits on internal criticism whether of party or leader will often rest on the belief that the nation can really take shape only round some undefined but acknowledged consensus. Are not the traditional habits incul- cated for centuries by village elders, it will be argued, a better guide to the political instincts of nationhood than the implanted and alien practice of western style democracy? What- ever the arguments offered in support of Asia's singular leaders and one-party govern- ments, whether they are spoken or unspoken, the trend is unmistakable.

It is no answer to such trends to dispute the priorities of nationalism. Almost all these countries have been faced with minorities demanding greater autonomy or independence. Almost all have seen this as a threat to the new nation. Almost all are still busy combating what they see as the break-up of their countries. The balance of economic and political progress is bound to remain jerky.

IT ONLY THE ACCOUNTANT'S VERDICT

he great success of *Look in Anger* in 1956, the Court theatre put on about ductions in seven years. a dozen lost money. Even famous period, which the Stage Company must ok back on with serious is the theatre was tur- far more duds than suc- commercial terms. Of mere profit is no te yardstick for measuring cess of a theatre whose are at all adventurous, ay determine whether it ble to continue the adven- not. It was partly luck, se, that enabled the com- use the profits from lack in Anger and *The iner* to sustain losses on ew plays. Nevertheless, ry does contain a lesson theatre's governing body, needs today to consider a l ultimatum from the uncil.

he end of this financial e company is expected to ,000 in debt. The Arts has given warning that if able budget and pro- ent" for next year cannot ed, the theatre should nce again the "bloke at e with a hook" who used

to haunt Archie Rice is lurking in the wings at the Court, while the rumbling District Line below takes on a note of doom. The Arts Council does not normally brow- beat its beneficiaries in public, but the predicament of the theatre became known when one of its two artistic directors, Mr Robert Kidd, resigned earlier this month.

Like many other theatres in Britain, the Royal Court has been receiving money in advance of future subsidies from the Arts Council, to help meet the exceptional rising costs of the past two years. Now the council is becoming anxious about making commitments before the size of its own grant for next year is known. It is no part of its role to prescribe artistic policy, except in the broadest sense that its power to award and withhold grants involves. Indeed, the council would have had grounds for applying pressure much earlier, for the theatre's record has been lack- lustre for several years, not only in financial terms but also in terms of critical comment and the proportion of seats filled. Many other theatres relying on subsidy are in serious economic trouble; there can be no case

for giving special treatment to one just on the strength of its past, however glorious.

No theatre can conjure up a new Wesker or Osborne from nowhere. It is a pattern in the life of every experimental company that at one time everything seems to go right and at another nothing does. But in the lean periods a company must at least show that it is still actively keeping its eye open for new develop- ments and contriving to coast along in the meantime without unduly heavy losses. The present regime at the Royal Court has not given enough evidence of either kind of enterprise. In the past, the company has often restored its fortunes with plays (*Home, Inadmissible Evidence*, and many others), which trans- ferred to larger West End houses, to the advantage both of Shaftesbury Avenue and Sloane Square. Nothing in this process need be incompatible with the ideals of a radical stage com- pany. The need for such a company in London is as great today as it ever was, and the audience for it still exists. There is nothing wrong at the Court that could not be set right by an artistic director who knew his own mind and was not afraid of vulgar success.

within his discretionary powers. Lawyers play it canny.

The trouble, of course, is that the courtier kind of politics cannot be staved out of the case. It began with the Post Office Union's decision to join in a political campaign against the regime in South Africa; continued with the application for an injunction from a member of what Labour big game calls an extreme right-wing pressure group, and the Attorney General's refusal to authorize it; and so, on and on, until the Appeal Lords pronounce judgment, and Mr Silkin answers to the Commons.

In more ways than one, the case goes directly to the heart of contemporary politics. It deals with individual freedom in a day when government power rapidly increases; with the ability of Parliament to protect the individual when govern- ment may revoluteize society without adequate majority to justify their mandate, and when the House of Lords is threatened with extinction if it says boo to a goose. It deals also with the expansion of trade union privileges at the expense of other citizens, and raises questions about how far the judiciary itself may go in providing the protection that Parliament no longer give the individual citizen. By any test it is combustible constitutional and political tinder. The case also feeds discussion of some contemporary controversies, not least the campaign by Lord Hail- sham of Marylebone and many others (including Lord Scarman, who is being tipped to succeed Lord Denning as Master of the Rolls) for a Bill of Rights (a new constitutional settlement with en- trenching provisions for Everyman that no bare majority in Parliamen- could overturn. Then there is the future of the House of Lords, with Labour's national executive this week rushing headlong into a commitment to abolition.

That is not all. Some Conserva- tive lawyers nowadays draw hope from signs that the higher judiciary is pushing forward the frontiers of its success, and a limitation of the powers of Parliament could not live without agreement between the two main parties alternating in govern- ment. A repealable Bill of Rights would be a sars and a delusion in which the private citizen, on the evidence of the social contract as it is now worked, would be foolish to put his faith.

he evidently thought they should be if the individual citizen, at the mercy of the party in power, too much imprecise or downright bad law, is to have a comforting sense that he has somewhere to go to vindicate his rights.

At the root of most of the trouble, of course, is the arrogance of ministerial and party power, which is always with us, and more important, in recent years the special place in statute law given to organized trade unionism, represent- ing less than half the working population yet holding the com- manding heights of the economy and controlling the electoral destiny of governments. There is no end to the statutes that give to particular groups an advantage which has nothing to do with equality of citizens before the law.

We had an example in the Lords last Thursday. Note it. Lord Houghton of Sowerby, himself a former trade union leader and long- serving member of the General Council of the TUC, intervened on the committee stage of the Criminal Law Bill, Clause 5, dealing with conspiracy, he said, "is as much part of the social contract as any- thing else you can think of, because the TUC and the trade unions were determined to get a change in the law". Except for that, the Govern- ment would not have put it into the Bill.

Well, the first line of defence for the ordinary citizen may be the Master of the Rolls and the courts. The second may be judges in the Lords, or the House of Lords itself as a legislative longstop. A third may be the Commons, though I begin to doubt it. Lord Scarman and Lord Hailsham, with others, ask for the defence of individual liberty in depth: a Bill of Rights. Unfor- tunately, as Alan Campbell, QC, and his committee of Conservative lawyers argued in a pamphlet a few weeks ago, no Parliament can bind its successors, and a limitation of the powers of Parliament could not live without agreement between the two main parties alternating in govern- ment. A repealable Bill of Rights would be a sars and a delusion in which the private citizen, on the evidence of the social contract as it is now worked, would be foolish to put his faith.

Efficiency label for schools

From the Chairman of the Head- masters' Conference and the Chair- man of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools

Sir, It was reported in your issue of Friday January 7 that the Department of Education and Science is considering a proposal to end the procedure whereby an independent school may become "recognized as efficient". We acknowledge that this proposal reflects economic pressures but we believe that the Secretary of State, in making her decision, will wish to have in mind all the educational implications.

Inspection not only allows schools to benefit from the experience and expertise of HM Inspectors; it provides a guarantee for parents that schools recognized as efficient as a result of their reports have high standards of teaching and facilities. Only schools that are thus recognized can join the Head- masters' Conference and the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, which together represent some 650 schools.

Our schools and many others very much appreciate contact with inspectors and we know that inspectors on their part value their contact with us. Both parties would lose if that link was ended.

The withdrawal of these inspec- tions for independent schools would be of very significant impli- cations. Many people across the political spectrum wish to see independent schools more closely associated with the main stream of education in this country; and to employ any device, whether inspired by political conviction or economic necessity, that tends to separate further the independent and the Maintained Sectors.

It is sometimes argued that the Independent Sector represents so small a percentage of the school population that its further isolation would be of negligible importance. Independent schools produce 28 per cent of those who obtain three A-levels. It is really proposed that between a quarter and a third of the most able pupils in the country, together with the men and women who have been educated by them, should be cut off from all contact with the Inspector- ate? Such a proposal would seem at best misguided. We hope and believe that this is an economy that the Secretary of State will decline to make.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RAE, Chairman of the Head- masters' Conference,
Westminster School,
17 Dean's Yard SW1.

HUGH WOODCOCK, Chairman of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools,
Dulwich College Preparatory School,
42 Alleton Park, SE1.
January 20.

Educating our masters

From Mr John Garrett, MP for Norwich South (Labour)

Sir, I am surprised that an announcement from the Civil Service Department that it was considering the establishment of a new staff college (while downgrading the present one) should provoke from you such a violent attack on the report of the Fulton Committee ("Educating our Masters", January 18).

Though Fulton's findings have never been refuted, its most important recommendations have not been implemented. Its proposals for new planning arrangements, for the installation of procedures for mea- suring departmental efficiency and effectiveness and for a reduction in secrecy, look even more relevant now than they did at the time.

You probably object to Fulton's finding that the domination of top general management posts in the Civil Service by Oxbridge arts graduates and the virtual exclusion from these posts of engineers, accountants, research officers and other technically-qualified staff im- paired the management of depart- ments. This finding was based on very careful research and outside evidence and led Fulton to conclude, as you now do, that a new breed of administrator was required—not just the old breed put through a staff college.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GARRETT,
House of Commons.
January 19.

Boycott of South Africa

From Mr Ralph Harris and Mr Arthur Seldon

Sir, There is an unnoticed irony about British trade union politicians vigorously denouncing apartheid and seeking to impose sanctions against South Africa.

As Professor W. H. Hutt showed in *The Economics of the Colour Bar*, which we published in 1964, the essence of apartheid is the exclusion of coloured workers from better paid employment at the behest of white trade unionists. Such action depends on enforcing a closed shop, and is exactly comparable to Mr Jack Jones's ambition to preserve for his dockers the privilege of specified work outside the docks even at the expense of other trade unionists.

The analogy is brought home graphically by the habitual practice of trade unions in excluding competition by "blacking" workers who might challenge their monopoly of employment. In effect, they invent a "colour" bar. As explained in our recent *Not from benevolence* . . . only when British trade unionists embrace the liberal principle of open entry will they have the moral authority to criticize their fellow trade unionists in South Africa for the denial of the elementary right to work.

If workers of any colour wish to safeguard this right, they must also work (politically) for an inter- national free market in labour.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH HARRIS,
General Director,
ARTHUR SELDON,
Editorial Director,
The Institute of Economic Affairs,
2 Lord North Street,
Westminster SW1.
January 15.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Canterbury and Rome

From the Bishop of Norwich

Sir, Thank you for your clear leader "Canterbury and Rome" on January 20. The suggestion that the Pope might become the Head of the Family of Church of England Churches throughout the world, presumably, "in faith and morals" and speak ex-cathedra with infal- lible judgment, paradoxically high- lights the strength, flexibility, and continuing growth of the Anglican Family of Churches against the stresses, rigidity, and even the loss of priestly man-power that our fellow Christians in the world-wide Roman Catholic Church are facing today.

Is the Canterbury Way not a better way to Christian unity than the Roman road? As a bishop in the Church of God with a clearly defined geographical area of pas- toral care, with hundreds of other Anglican bishops throughout the world, I look towards the Arch- bishop of Canterbury, not in these rigid papalistic terms of centralized and even personalized authority, but as our chief pastor amongst fellow pastors, whom I respect, revere and follow. This seems to be the ethos of the great Petrine passage: "So I exhort the presbyters among you as a fellow presbyter, and witness of the sufferings of Christ as well as a partaker in the glory that is to be revealed, tend the flock of Christ, exercising the oversight, not by constraint, but willingly." 1 Peter 5 v. 1 & 2.

The tradition whereby the Arch- bishop of Canterbury, as the spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion, calls the bishops to- gether for the Lambeth Conference every ten years, means that he does not in his person attempt to act as a mouthpiece of Christ in a singular and authoritative way in matters of faith and morals. He rather seeks to lead his brother bishops in prayer and consultation, and the study of the Scriptures, to discover the mind of Christ in the opportunities and problems of the world. Anglicanism has always emphasized that Christ Himself, and not earthly Vicar, is the living and eternal Head of the Church; that the Bible is the supreme authority in matters of faith and morals, rather than either tradition or papal pronouncement, however wise; and that episcopal leadership is more pastoral and shepherding than juridical and authoritarian. Because "small is beautiful" as Schumacher says, perhaps the more gentle, defuse and collegial, authority of Canterbury, would be a better focus of organizational pattern, than the more patriarchal pattern of Rome, if both great

Churches desire a closer form of organizational unity.

In this week of prayer for unity, the miracle before our eyes in 1977 consists of fellow Christians loving each other, praying together, ministering and worshipping in the free patterns which they enjoy and value within their different com- munities, and in social concern and service to the world for which Christ died, reaching out together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, not in a competitive spirit, but in a complementary one, which does not see monopoly as neces- sarily good, and sees diversity in love as not necessarily weak.

Our international inter-church commission may do the world Church a great service if from a close study of its report a surpris- ing variety of Christians should find themselves in love and mission and holiness, walking along the pilgrim way together to Can- terbury, rather than along the Roman road together.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE NORVIC:
The Bishop's House,
Norwich.
January 21.

From Mrs K. M. Thwaites

Sir, In your leading article (January 20) you suggest intercommunion between Anglican and Roman Catholic congregations on the basis of a "sufficiency of doctrinal agree- ment" as a less ambitious objective than corporate reunion and one which would be satisfactory enough to be going on with.

It is customary to advocate inter- communion as an ecumenical expedi- ent, but in the context of Roman Catholicism the practical meaning of communion is an expression of corporate union, not a means of attaining it. Those who are in communion with the Roman Catholic Church are by definition at one with her and therefore the prefix "inter" is redundant.

The act of communion consum- mates the unity of the faithful in Christ who is the whole truth, not just a "sufficiency" of it. To offer communion to those who are not wholly committed to its own faith would be for the Roman Catholic Church to renounce the definition of unity which its identity sub- stants and, far from promoting unity, to abandon its ecumenical role as the source and centre of that wider unity to which all Christians belong.

Yours faithfully,
KATHARINE THWAITES,
The Old House,
Westfield College,
Hamstead, NW3.
January 20.

Help for the arts

From Mr Malcolm Arnold and others

Sir, We have seen references in the Press to the campaign Arts in Danger and we feel it is indeed time that the Government and the public became aware of the deep and growing anxiety which is felt by those who work in the arts. Britain has never, compared with many other countries, been an overgenerous public patron of the arts and in time of recession these become an easy target for economy. Savings in this area would reduce public expenditure by an imperceptible amount, yet they could mean the death of theatre companies, orchestras, exhibitions and other cultural activities all over the country.

Surely even during the war, we need to concentrate some of our resources on raising morale and on maintaining the quality of life. Surely, in attempting to regain material stability, we are not going to prejudice the future of the arts in this country. For, once a theatre has closed, an orchestra disbanded, it does not come to life again immediately when the economy takes a turn for the better.

The increase in the Arts Council grant for the current year was at least sufficient to meet inflation in real terms. Can the Government assure us that there will be a similar increase for 1977/78? Growth, in these hard times, cannot perhaps be

expected, but a stand-still policy is surely not too much to hope for.

The former Minister for the Arts fought hard for that increase; we trust that Lord Donaldson will do the same. It is, however, a sad reflection of the atmosphere which the Government attaches to the arts that its minister has to fight from a position of weakness, that he does not have Cabinet status, nor even a department of his own.

National expenditure is not the only area of concern. Local authorities have been exhorted to cut back on spending and there are already indications that these exhortations are affecting local grants to the arts. The amounts involved are a tiny fraction of local government expenditure but they could make the difference between a town having some cultural activity or none at all.

If your readers, wherever they live in Britain, enjoy live music, drama, dance or painting, may we urge them to make their voices heard, locally and nationally, in a plea for maintained funds to support the arts?

Yours faithfully,
Malcolm Arnold, Beryl Grey,
Peggy Ashcroft, Yehudi Menuhin,
Richard Baker, John Mortimer,
Robert Bolt, Laurence Olivier,
Hugh Casson, Joan Plowright,
John Dankworth, John Schlesinger,
Colin Davis, Malcolm Williamson
Geraint Evans, 5 Fitzroy Square,
January 17.

Organic husbandry

From the General Secretary, The Soil Association

Sir, Philippa Pullar in her article of January 19 has rightly drawn attention to some of the perils of modern agribusiness whose concern is money not the soil.

To those concerned with real values it seems time for everyone to pause and take a long hard look at an alternative system of husbandry which protects soil fertility, offers the hope of a permanent and secure future for the prospect of better health. This has been the belief and work of the Soil Association for the past 30 years.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. VICKERS, General Secretary,
The Soil Association,
Haughley.

Legal aid and costs

From Mr Roy D. Roebuck

Sir, The Government's figures for criminal legal aid are incorrect and misleading. And, in refusing to award costs to acquitted legally-aided defendants on the ground that they are legally-aided, most courts are doing violence to the constitu- tional principle that money voted by the Commons for one purpose should not be used for another.

In Regina v. Aron (1973) 2 All ER 122 Lord Justice Scarman stated that, in considering an award of costs to a legally-aided defendant, the fact that he was legally-aided was immaterial. (Where costs are awarded in such a case the Legal Aid Fund is reimbursed.)

Most courts, however, refuse to award costs to an acquitted legally-aided defendant, and money is per- lost out of pocket. The reason sometimes offered when counsel has the temerity to seek costs in such a case is the practical one that such a course simply provides work for civil servants. It is understood that some courts have made a rule of their own to this effect and that some time ago the Home Office "issued guidance" that this was the correct course.

Whatever may be the practical merits of this policy, the public is being given a distorted view of the cost of legal aid and violence is done to the principles governing Parliamentary Votes.

Following the publication of the latest legal aid figures in your column on November 24 last I wrote to the Home Secretary. He has now replied saying that he accepts that the practice "does have the effect of increasing the figures for expenditure on legal aid" but that they would otherwise be "grossly inflated". The use of the word "inflated" is a device for "considering some of the practicalities".

It seems to me that, inter alia, the Comptroller and Auditor General should also be "considering some of the practicalities". So should those responsible for administering the Legal Aid Fund since many of the charges made on the fund should properly be met by other Votes.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
ROY ROEBUCK,
6 Gray's Inn Square,
Gray's Inn, WC1.

Temple Bar

From Sir Edward Singleton

Sir, The implication of Mr Mat- tingley's letter (January 20) is that it would be possible to do a repair job to Temple Bar as it stands in Hertfordshire. My co-trustees of the Temple Bar Trust and I are advised that in order to preserve the monu- ment at all, it will be necessary to take down and rebuild a very sub- stantial part of the structure. Much of the stonework cannot be re- worked on the present site; and new stone will have to be transported to the site where Temple Bar will be re-erected.

The saving, therefore, would not be great and in our opinion would be outweighed by the many advan- tages of the site in the precincts of St Paul's Cathedral.

Yours faithfully,
TIM SINGLETON,
Dowgate Hill House, EC4.

Westminster and Scotland

From Mr Adam Ferguson

Sir, My friend Geoffrey Smith opines in his article today (January 21) that for those "broadly in favour" of legislative devolution "there is no absolutely logical answer" to the question of what to do about Scottish (and Welsh) representation at Westminster once the Assemblies are established.

After exploring in dimmy the difficulties of allowing the Scots and the Welsh, not to say the Labour Party, to have their cake and eat it, which many of us have been trying to point out for months, if not years, in these columns and elsewhere, he comes up with a solution—foreshadowed by Mr Heath in his recent Glasgow speech—further than ever down the track to national disintegration. Cavilling at the logical step of ending Scottish inter- ference in English devolved matters, he proposes to cut by one-fifth the number who may so in- terfere. He then hopes, if I understand him right, that this will be a con- stitutional quirk which we shall all come to regard "with affection and even pride".

So not a scorn a hope, however pious. But I observe with alarm how, faster and faster, even before any assembly is in being, we are being driven into dismantling the country along with its constitution; and how Scotland's influence in the political and commercial centre of her most important market is inexorably being weakened. Rough justice, maybe; but rough lunacy for so many blinkered Scottish MPs to insist on the changes that will invite it.

Mr Smith calls for the announce- ment of a Speaker's Conference to consider it all. At this I must protest strongly, unless the committee stage of the Devolution Bill is sus- pended forthwith. The Bill contains no mention whatever of the future position, powers or number of Scottish MPs—and Mr Smith adequately illuminated the reasons for that. But if these are to be changed, then unquestionably every clause in the Bill from top to last must be altered. What will Scot- land (pop. 18,000) say if she has to share an MP with all Scotland north of Inverness? What will happen to the assembly constituencies tailored to the parliamentary ones? How will the balance of authority be upset between rival seats for rep- resentatives sitting in Edinburgh and London? And so on and on and on. Changes in representation at Westminster must be part of the same package.

As to offering the present dan- gerous and divisive stew of constitutional change to the Scottish people as a main course by means of a referendum before telling them, or even deciding, what the just dessert is to be—I think the idea is monstrous.

But so is the Bill. Its opponents have always maintained that it could not be a stable or permanent half-way house to sepa- ration. Now Geoffrey Smith himself is pulling the foundations of that half-way house away. I trust that he won't remain "broadly in favour" of it for long.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
ADAM FERGUSON,
9 Addison Crescent, W.14.

Bullock Report

From Mr Timothy Raison, MP for Aylesbury (Conservative)

Sir, As we plunge into discussion of the Bullock Report, could one thing at least be agreed: whatever one may think about giving workers a greater say in the management of companies, this is not democracy? Democracy is a rule by the people, implying nowadays all the people. Adding trade union repre- sentatives, even if they have been elected by trade union members, to company boards can in no sense be termed democracy, even if qualified by the word "industrial". The use of the word is simply a device for conferring a spurious legitimacy on an attempt to win more power for the unions.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY RAISON,
House of Commons.

Whooping cough

From Professor Sir John Stallworthy and Dr F. Harold Stevenson

Sir, Since the beginning of the century there has been a progres- sive and accelerating decline in Britain in the incidence and mor- tality of whooping cough in chil- dren. The risk of death is now approximately one per thousand of those suffering from the disease.

Cerebral damage during an attack of whooping cough, or following vaccination of a healthy child, is rare but is a tragic complication. Vaccination is given both to protect the child from infection and to reduce the incidence of the disease in the community. For these reasons the Department of Health and Social Security initiated the cam- paign to immunize children.

The medical history of some may indicate that the small risk of vac- cination is increased for certain and a doctor's failure to recognize this may result in a claim for compen- sation if brain damage results. But no detectable warnings exist for most children and in these unpre- dictable cases a doctor has neither moral nor legal responsibility.

No money can compensate for a brain-damaged child. The continuing emotional strain to which parents and family are subjected, and the increasing costs of protecting and caring for the child, throw heavy, and at times intolerable, burdens on the home.

We write in no sense to disclaim liability for compensation in the minority of cases in which medical negligence is proven but to urge that the Government should accept its responsibility for adequate com- pensation when damage is caused by immunization. The immunization campaign advised by its Department of Health and Social Security.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STALLWORTHY,
President,
HARWOOD STEVENSON,
Chairman of Council,
The Medical Protection Society
Limited,
50 Hallam Street, W.1.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Will Bullock
become a
political pawn?
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Tax breakdown revealed on eve Varley power industry talks

Four largest companies in the power industry will be bearing the brunt of a meeting with the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr. Peter Varley, on the eve of the industry talks. The meeting will be held at the home of the four companies, C. A. Parsons, on a generator side, and the Babcock & Wilcox, on a boiler side. The meeting is being held at a level since the energy committee has been set up in the month on the industry for the first time.

Among the turbine builders and the power industry, the meeting will be a crucial one. The industry is facing a number of problems, including the need for a new power station, the need for a new power station, and the need for a new power station. The industry is facing a number of problems, including the need for a new power station, the need for a new power station, and the need for a new power station.

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Cut in bank base rates likely within two days

Within the next two days the clearing banks are expected to decide on a cut in the rates which they charge to borrowers, after last Friday's three-quarter point cut in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate.

The banks' reluctance to move is expected to be overcome by the Government's decision to cut the rate. The banks are expected to follow the Government's lead and cut their rates by at least half a point and possibly more.

This means that the rates to prime industrial borrowers will come down to 14 per cent or less. Building societies, however, will not be following suit until the minimum lending rate has dropped further, and their own receipts have recovered.

The banks' reluctance to move is expected to be overcome by the Government's decision to cut the rate. The banks are expected to follow the Government's lead and cut their rates by at least half a point and possibly more.

BSC modifies development strategy

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Modifications to its 10-year development strategy—much delayed since its original approval five years ago—are to be submitted shortly to the Government by the British Steel Corporation.

The latest submission is expected to show some important amendments to the schemes originally proposed. Some trimming of the original targets now appears likely following a detailed review of the entire strategy against the background of revised projections of United Kingdom steel demand over the next few years.

This latest review began last summer, prompted by the Government's refusal to give its blessing to the corporation's controversial plan to phase out steelmaking at the Shotton works in North Wales, while doubling capacity from three million to six million tonnes at the coastal site at Port Talbot, in south Wales.

By the end of this year the corporation will have brought on stream a considerable volume of additional capacity. But the need for further huge increases in capacity has been questioned, given the present trend in United Kingdom steel consumption, which seems unlikely to be as large as originally projected.

The corporation, however, remains firmly convinced of the economics of major coastal steelmaking plants based on the basic oxygen process. This offers attractive costs of production compared with outmoded open hearth steelmaking, and with the so-called mini-mill route which is based on production of steel by electric arc furnaces.

Drawbacks seen in noble aims of Congress

Mr. Walter Mondale, the United States Vice-President, has arrived in Western Europe to give leaders assurances on the Carter Administration's foreign policies.

His visit comes at a time when there is confusion in Washington over the consequences of what may be termed the wave of moral righteousness that is evident regarding United States' international economic relations.

Leaders of the Congress, encouraged by comments made by President Carter before he took office, are determined to legislate on such matters as the use of bribes abroad by American companies in compliance with American companies with the Arab boycott of Israel and the withholding of development aid to countries which do not share the United States view of human rights.

Mr. Michael Blumenthal, the Secretary of the Treasury, told the Senate finance committee recently that he believed legislation dealing with corporate bribery would be extremely difficult to formulate. He said he favoured a voluntary code of conduct by leading companies.

The Congress is most likely to ignore these comments and move ahead with legislation.

A large number of American businessmen say privately that legislation in this area may produce a host of new regulations which would make foreign operations more difficult, with the result that foreign investment may decline.

Tougher regulations governing the Arab boycott of Israel could lead to major problems for the United States in its relations with numerous Middle East countries, notably Saudi Arabia, according to Dr. Kissinger, the former Secretary of State.

He favoured solving the problem by quiet diplomacy, and said that legislation would not only endanger the chances of further progress towards peace in the area, but could also prompt the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to adopt a tougher policy on oil price rises.

The Congress seems determined to legislate on this matter.

Mr. Blumenthal promised the Senate that he would review present regulations on compliance with the boycott by American companies and Mrs. Juanita Kreps, the new Secretary of Commerce, assured the Senate that her department would be much tougher on companies which cooperated with Arab demands.

It is probable that numerous European leaders will tell Mr. Mondale that they believe legislation on bribery, the boycott and human rights, while noble, is likely to be counterproductive.

They may point out that such legislation would make it all the harder to break out of what Mr. Robert McNamara, the president of the World Bank, termed the "current impasse" in international economic negotiations.

Frank Vogl

Burton to pay pension fund extra £264,000

By Our Financial Staff

Burton Group's 1976 accounts published today, give an indication of the additional costs facing companies as they near the April 1978 deadline for the introduction of the state pension scheme.

Existing occupational pension schemes, covering half the country's 22 million workers, will have to match benefits available within the state plan, or be drawn into it.

To improve benefits for members of its scheme, Burton, which employs 18,800 in its 335 ventures, Peter Robinson, Top Shop and Ryman office equipment stores throughout the country, has undertaken to make additional payments to its pension fund of £264,000 for a maximum of 18 years.

Burton, which reported pre-tax losses of £1.4m last year, before foreign exchange and closure losses of a further £2.1m, also reports that the latest valuation of one of its pension funds shows a £4m deficiency, as increases in investment values fell behind higher salaries levels. This deficiency will be filled by higher annual company contributions to the fund.

Pension costs have been the



Mr. Alan Burroughs: reluctance to dilute control.

'Beefeater' goes to the market

By Our Financial Staff

There is another recruit to the over-the-counter market where bankers and OTC market maker, Mr. J. H. Nightingale, starts dealings in the ordinary shares of James Burroughs.

Burroughs is the old-established distilling group famous for its Beefeater gin, though it also produces Borzoi vodka and industrial alcohols on a small scale.

Dealings are expected to open at around 65p, capitalizing the whole group at just under £9m. Burroughs' addition is a useful fillip to the OTC market since it will be the largest of the 11 companies in which Nightingale now makes a market.

Around 90 per cent of production is exported, chiefly to north America, and sales to 170 markets around the world have more than doubled over the past five years to an estimated £15m net of duty in the year ending this February.

Burroughs' accounts for 40 per cent of United Kingdom gin exports, making it the largest gin exporter in the world.

Pressure on margins has kept profits moving ahead at a slower pace and with the United States dock strike and glass shortage in 1975 pre-tax profits fell by a quarter to £1.8m.

However, the group is looking for a two thirds rise in the current year to £3.1m, helped by price increases and a once-and-for-all currency boost from switching invoicing to dollars in North America.

With its strong balance sheet—cash is more than £2m—Burroughs also has ambitions of expanding, particularly into wine.

Around 5 to 10 per cent of the 13.8m ordinary issued capital is being made available in the first year. More will

BIM chief urges pay flexibility

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Staff

Mr. Healey is now considering a range of suggestions on the shape of a possible new wages pact with the unions, the latest of which has come from Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the British Institute of Management.

He has told the Chancellor that a flexible percentage increase wage policy with cuts in income tax should be introduced when the present pay restraint policy ends in July.

Sir Derek, chairman of the National Council for the Training of Manpower, says in a letter to Mr. Healey that flexibility is needed to give incentives to those with technical and professional skills.

Successive flat-rate pay policies, together with inflation and income tax had cut the real purchasing power of managers to a much greater extent than wage earners, he said.

The real value of managers' salaries after tax had fallen on average by 12 per cent in the four years to July 1975, while average earnings rose by about 5 per cent.

In the two years to January this year, he said, the real value of managers' salaries fell by an average of a further 19 per cent, compared with a fall in real average earnings of only about 6 per cent.

Sir Derek told the Chancellor: "While we share with others the aim of returning as soon as possible to a system of wage and salary negotiation that is free from direct controls, we recognize that this objective must be approached with care if a sudden pay explosion is to be avoided."

A new pay code should:

- 1 Include variable pay systems to reward merit and achievement.
- 2 Reduce the anomalies caused by the timing of the introduction of the £6 limit in phase one, and to allow self-financing new efficiency deals.
- 3 Be combined with reductions in income tax to restore incentives.

Meriden aid scheme for Cabinet

By Ronald Emler

The future of the Meriden motor cycle workers' cooperative is expected to be considered by the Cabinet this week.

Mr. Leaver, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Prime Minister's economic adviser, has drawn up a rescue plan which would involve the subcontracting of work to the cooperative by GEC. It is understood that Sir Arnold Weinstock, GEC chairman, is considering providing sales and marketing expertise.

The cooperative is faced with an immediate need for an extra £1m capital, an original request for aid to that level having been turned down by the Government.

Assef staff advised to storm blockade

As who are angry at the pay dispute began when 380 assembly men had some wages stopped for alleged "go slow" tactics. They claimed they were unable to meet the particular track speeds suggested by the company on a new model.

About 900 others joined the strikers, despite a factory wide vote against any extension, and about 2,000 others had to be laid off.

Last Friday, when pickets padlocked the factory gate and strengthened their lines, the remaining 1,800 employees, mostly office staff, were unable to get in and had to go home. The management then closed the plant.

Management has so far turned a blind eye to the pickets keeping their braziers going by burning wooden pallets belonging to the company.

Kites in the money at toy fair

By Derek Harris

Volume growth at least in exports, possibly with the home market sizzling at last year's levels, was the prospect for British toy makers at the United Kingdom trade fair got under way at the weekend at the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre.

But, with the annual award for toy of the year, given by the National Association of Toy Retailers, going to Mr. Peter Powell, a Cheltenham kite maker, it looked as if the latest variation on a hobby that goes back to the Chinese of 3,000 years ago might be one of the 1977 money-spinners.

Mr. Powell, a former carpenter who three years ago started producing stunt kites operated by double strings—at first on his kitchen table—almost did not get to the fair. He took a stand only in the last few days.

A dispute arose between Peter Powell Kites and some retail outlets because the company had offered kites for sale

by direct mail—a move which it has now dropped.

Mr. Powell said: "We also had 120,000 kites ready on the shelves for the fair, but turned out to be an order that was not going ahead, so we had a cash flow problem."

"Our bankers were perhaps quite naturally worried what with this and the direct mail affair, and it looked as if we might not be able to back. But that's all over now and credit lines have also stood by us."

Already in the first two days of the fair, he claimed, new orders for kites had almost accounted for those in stock, the smaller range of kites being a French one for 100,000.

Last year 354,000 Powell kites were sold in Britain—they now retail at less than £5—and 54,000 abroad. Mr. Powell hopes orders at the fair will allow him to start his four-week lay-off at his factory which begins this week.

A number of the big toy-makers are increasing production of kites, but another specialist maker, Cochrane of Oxford, expects substantial increases in sales in Britain.

The sales, according to the British Toy Manufacturers' Association, looked like rising on the home market by about 15 per cent in value this year to about £230m. But exports could rise by rather more than 30 per cent, the BTMA believes, to about £72m.

Some big groups are looking to taking a larger overall slice. Dunbee-Comex-Marx is projecting "well over 20 per cent" growth by value this year.

DCM expects a writ for infringement of copyright, taken out last year against one of the other major toy companies, Mentoy, to be heard later this year. The writ concerns DCM's "Play People" range and a similar line, "Buddy Bodies", by Mentoy.

It is the first time the association has gone to Birmingham.

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MARTIN

the newsagent limited

gross continues—profits exceed million for first time

B. H. S. Martin, Chairman, reports another successful year in which the major features are:

7% increase in pre-tax profits to £2,147,000.

Sales, excluding V.A.T., increased 26% to 56,362,000.

at increase of 18 stores during the year.

Maximum permitted increase in dividend commended.

2 million to be spent in current year, mostly on purchase of established stores.



Aluminium smelters back at full capacity

By Edward Townsend

Britain's three big aluminium smelters are now all operating at full capacity and appear to be well set to take advantage of the continuing increase in demand for the metal expected this year.

The British Aluminium smelter at Invergoron in the Scottish Highlands, where output was cut by half in September after a fire in an electrical rectifier, is back to full production. There is also full working at the Anglesey Aluminium plant and at Alcan's Lynemouth smelter in Northumberland.

The Invergoron fire caused alumina and flux to solidify in about 150 of the plant's reduction cells. Work on repairing the pots has taken just over three months and 310 are now operating. It is estimated that the shutdown caused lost production of more than 6,000 tonnes out of the smelter's annual capacity of 102,000.

After last week's latest price increase by Alcan UK, the only company to quote its United Kingdom price, primary aluminium is fetching £530 per tonne.

British Aluminium covered

Britain's coal reserves 'can last 300 years'

Predicting expansion of the coal industry with anything up to 30 new coal mines, Mr. Alec Eadie, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Energy, said at the weekend: "We have recoverable reserves of coal which will last for 300 years at current rates of extraction."

He said Britain was well on the way to self-sufficiency in energy by 1990. This was a situation few other Western industrial countries would be able to achieve.

Ford increases car prices by 6.8pc

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£100,000 Saudi order

Percy Lane Group has won a £100,000 export order for fire-proof linen and waste disposal chute systems for Saudi Arabia.

£15m Soviet deal

Britain is to buy £15m worth of Soviet synthetic rubber over the next four years under an agreement signed by the International Synthetic Rubber Company, manufacturer of synthetic rubbers in Britain.

The largest in the land?

The real value of managers' salaries after tax had fallen on average by 12 per cent in the four years to July 1975, while average earnings rose by about 5 per cent.

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Lending rate 13 1/4 pc

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate is being reduced 1 percentage point this week, to 13 1/4 per cent. The following are the results of Friday's Treasury Bill Tender:

Applications	£1m	Allotted	£200m
Average bid	5.65	5.65	11%
Next FR	£500m	Replace	£500m

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THE EDITOR
interest rates
our problems

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

A base rates dilemma for the clearers



Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Shadow Chancellor, has recently described dividend controls as a catalogue of unfairness and inefficiency.

When lending rates were, however, their options open on a cut could side once the trend in interest rates was clear. The fear of a rate and the tight-money produce in the markets has temporarily eased, with heavy cuts due this week it means certain that the full drop in rates on one and six money, for example, will be less than a point on a cut.

if the banks have an eye on a money market, the efforts to control money, sterling and interest at the same time, to keep the other on the image, and with a 14 point cut in the base rates up to 10, it can be taken as a will at least be a cure to the customer.

market rates do point at which it worth while for corporations to fund their bills rather than at upwards of 15 the half point cut in which at present most likely outcome turn out to be a point decline.

on that latter whether the banks the opportunity to their retail margin 3 per cent, is now all below the record last summer. Here banks have to look at public opinion, the more important of the threat of inflation.

But the provides one argument restricting the depositors, and the inflation rates on profit.

id controls
price of
accord

pt to consider dividends in other than a fiscal context is not controls have moved in wage restrictions since 1960, dividends were frozen, restrained, when are voluntarily reduced or neither removed or statutory maximum when wage levels edged.

ally, therefore, dividends seem from an analysis of corporate wealth equalization, by one Machiavellian kill the Transport bill the capitalist logs of Thorogmorton

the controls have arguing counter in Government, negoti- h the unions, a part- wage controls.

long as the TUC is accept dividend con- a valid counter in todations, and while ment has so few such in its armoury, market about any effective

levelling returns without regard to the relative risks of individual investments.

Sir Geoffrey is right. But he has not divulged any Conservative Party magic formula for convincing the TUC. And his audience of industrialists may have felt a twinge of hypocrisy as their minds drifted beyond the applause to the effect of the controls on corporate liquidity.

GEC's elaborate distribution of capital notes to shareholders and an historically high average dividend cover of 24 times from one side of an equation balanced by the number of exemptions to raise extra equity capital and, to an extent, by their compensating effect in conserving retained profits—an effect magnified by the tighter definitions of distributable earnings under inflation accounting, and so helping the corporate sector to fund three quarters of its capital requirements from internally generated funds during the decade of controls.

Nevertheless, the controls do distort the market, in 10 years obscuring the valuation of risk by levelling yields without regard to performance and obscuring the market's best premise that equity prices reflect expectations of a future flow of income.

Leaving aside the unfairness of the limits, which have penalized and have contributed to the elimination of the small private investor as a force in the market for the moment, their indiscriminate nature is at odds with and, in the long run, could help strangle our prime secondary market. That is a high price to pay for a political cure.

Dollar premium As the pound gets stronger

The dollar premium rate has been weak lately—during Thursday and Friday last week it fell by 5 points to an effective 37½ per cent, a reflection of the existence of few buyers and a slow but steady trickle of sellers in the investment currency pool.

United Kingdom holders of overseas assets are gradually coming round to the view which continental investors, with their gilt purchases and the occasional significant foray into equities, already hold and are acting upon, that United Kingdom markets are bombed out and present some of the best buying opportunities in the world. It is, of course, the strength of sterling which has given most of the recent impetus to this change of opinion.

The attractions of overseas assets as a currency hedge are reduced to the extent that the pound can be expected to hold or even increase its value; and the same arguments apply to the earnings they produce, earnings which, in most cases, reflect a far lower rate of return than that available at home.

Just as in other markets, a fall in the dollar premium is likely to feed upon itself. It makes reasonable sense to hold investment currency, despite a decline in the premium, if the pound is likely to fall at some future date. But these arguments don't apply if the pound is likely to hold steady—and the prospect of a rise creates strong arguments for taking losses now before they grow larger.

Will industrial democracy become a political pawn?

Hugh Stephenson

No one is going to be happy when the Bullock report on industrial democracy is published later this week. It has been an exercise from which several lessons should be learned.

The first concerns the way in which the committee has conducted its proceedings. It has deliberated in secret on issues which go to the heart of the social, political and economic organization of industry and commerce in the private sector.

This week's majority report, with its proposals for worker directors, will be a radical blueprint. It will not, however, produce ideas that are rooted in any well prepared ground. It is seldom that a reform succeeds, except by revolution, if there is not at least a major degree of subterranean consent.

In the case of Bullock, the way in which the committee has proceeded has meant that it has made no contribution at all to a process of education and debate over the past year. The

report will, therefore, explode on a world no better prepared to judge the issues involved than it would have been on the day that the Labour Party passed the resolution which led to the setting up of the committee in the first place.

In fact, if anything, confusion is worse confounded by the extensive leaks from Bullock since the middle of 1976. At the outset, the active trade unionists were in favour of statutory two tier boards on the German model, while the industrialists were more receptive to ideas of experimentation through existing board structures. Somewhere along the line, these basic positions have been reversed, adding to the general public confusion.

The result is that, far from helping the Government to decide how to handle this delicate issue, the Bullock exercise has, if anything, made things more difficult. It is not just the high powered and coordinated campaign of opposition now being mounted by the CBI, though this has become a real

factor in the equation. It is a combination of other influences as well. First, the splits within the trade union movement on the issue of industrial democracy are just as deep now as ever they were.

Secondly, no government would wish to introduce legislation of such a profound kind if it merely provoked an immediate and credible promise that the opposition would repeal it lock, stock and barrel on being returned to office.

These considerations lead to the conclusion that, although the Government is convinced that the tide is flowing in the direction of greater industrial democracy, there will be no hurry at all to proceed to legislation as a result of Bullock.

The argument about lack of parliamentary time will be used to rule out entirely a Bill in the present session. Even a Bill next session will probably not be invested with total urgency. The time could profitably be used

to promote a wider public debate about industrial democracy, which has so conspicuously not taken place under the rubric of Bullock. Mr Jack Jones, the spiritual sponsor of Bullock, will have retired. This would make it easier to judge the depth of his and other unions' commitment to specific Bullock proposals.

In short, a betting man should take the view that post-Bullock legislation is unlikely this side of a general election. The subject would be better suited to an election manifesto than an early Queen's Speech. There could then be the hope of a mandate for the radical legislation, at present lacking. It would add little or nothing to public expenditure while appearing socially radical.

Meanwhile, any more urgent experiments into industrial democracy could be conducted in the public sector where the only legislation required would be minor amendments to the statutes governing individual state corporations.

Mr Carter: how long will the honeymoon with Congress last?

Before taking office President Carter promised to balance the federal budget within four years. (He also promised to reduce federal government spending as a percentage of gross national product, sharply to reduce the rate of unemployment and to ensure a further slowdown in the rate of inflation.)

To secure this aim the President will have to reduce the rate of growth of federal government spending. Democrats have in the past sought to limit the growth of the budget by reducing defence expenditure, while maintaining substantial real growth in domestic social assistance programmes.

Former President Ford has effectively blocked the Congress from taking this course again.

Mr Ford's budget proposals for the 1978 fiscal year, which starts on October 1, 1977, involve a rise in defence expenditure of roughly 10 per cent to about \$12,000m. The figure is lower than had been expected, but this is explained by Mr Ford's optimism that successful arms limitation agreements will be reached with the Soviet Union.

It is a tightly costed defence programme in which it seems most improbable that President Carter and the Congress will manage to find more than \$3,000m more than \$3,000m or \$4,000m at most.

Mr Ford's proposals involved significant reductions in taxation, and President Carter is unlikely to be able to raise revenues much above the level suggested by his predecessor because he has already committed himself to a two-year \$30,000m inflationary programme (relative to the prospects before the Ford budget) that includes substantial tax cuts.

Revenues could, of course, be higher, just as spending could be lower, if the economy were to grow spontaneously in real terms at a faster rate than Mr Ford's advisers projected. A greatly increased rate, however, would almost certainly produce a higher inflation level over the next few years.

After all, Mr Ford's budget programme, aiming at a budget surplus by the end of fiscal year 1980, is based upon expectations of real growth in gross national product (GDP) of 5.2 per cent in 1978, 5.9 per cent in 1979 and 5.5 per cent for 1980.

Most economists would concede that these are optimistic real growth forecasts, while many would suggest that they

FORMER PRESIDENT FORD'S BUDGET PROGRAMME (\$m)

Fiscal year	1977	1978	1979	1980
Outlays	411,200	440,000	466,000	496,600
Receipts	354,000	383,000	454,000	510,000
Deficit/ Surplus	-57,200	-47,000	-11,800	+13,400

are quite unrealistic, especially for 1979 and 1980, when unemployment, according to the Ford figures, will be moving down to the 4.9 per cent level that government economists now believe should be seen as a realistic full employment definition standard.

As President Carter runs through the numbers of his predecessor's budget and 1977 economic report, he will probably reach the conclusion that he will have to hold public expenditure in the next few years to levels even below those outlined by Mr Ford (see table). He may reach this conclusion because of the recognition that his new reductionary programme is likely to

Frank Vogl

raise the current year's (fiscal 1977) budget deficit to about \$65,000m compared with the estimate made by Mr Ford, which did not take into consideration President Carter's plans, of about \$7,200m.

Yet, Mr Ford's figures assure heavy cuts in social programmes, which would be anathema to Democrats.

Of course, President Carter has spoken often of the need to reduce waste in government and the need for reorganization of government programmes. So, he may initially take the view that he can achieve some of the cuts in domestic social assistance spending by these means, rather than by Mr Ford's cruder device of simply terminating some programmes.

But that easy option is a fantasy of those who have not been in government and will hardly survive Mr Carter's first months in office.

The conclusion one is forced to reach, if one assumes that President Carter does not intend to back away from his budget promises, is that he is going to have to face the fact that ahead of him lies a bitter battle with the Congress.

The Congress bluntly rejected former President Ford's many proposals for cuts in social programmes over the last two years. The new Congress is composed of more Democrats than its pre-

Why Europe's airlines have much to learn from the US

The recent inquiry into whether European air fares are too high, held by the Civil Aviation Authority, turned at times into an investigation of airline productivity and efficiency. It was a debate from which the European carriers did not always emerge very favourably.

According to the Airline Users' Committee (AUC), European airlines come out badly compared with their counterparts in the United States when the yardstick of passengers carried per employee is applied.

While most of the Americans bunched in the group between 600 and 1,000, the Europeans were down between 600 and 200, with British Airways and Air France alongside each other at around 350.

The report of the AUC which contained the figures was heavily criticized at the aviation authorities' hearings, notably by British Airways, on the grounds that it was superficial and that it was completed after only 10 hearings. The report concluded that the high level of European fares had been at least partially responsible for the lower levels of staff productivity.

Weighty backing for the committee's views came from the authoritative American aviation magazine *Air Transport World* which, in a survey of 1975 world airline rankings, listed British Airways top in the number of employees (52,000) and sixth in fleet size, but seventh in the number of passengers carried, sixth in revenue kilometres that those passengers were flown, and eighth in air freight.

United, the biggest American airline, came second in the number of employees (46,000) and well ahead first in fleet size, but were also first in passengers carried and revenue kilometres and fifth in air freight.

British airlines' representatives at the CAA hearing pressed their comparisons between their own performance and that of the American airlines were unfair. There are important reasons why like cannot be compared directly with like in this case, they contended.

But the Americans do provide more of a yardstick for them than the European airlines care to admit. Their equipment is the same and, in many cases, the distances which they fly are similar.

Many of the fares which the American airlines charge are half those charged in Europe—£30.48 for the 395 miles between Boston and Buffalo; £54.81 for the 400 miles between London and Frankfurt.

With such a disparity, it is virtually impossible to escape the conclusion that United States airlines are more productive than those in Europe, even taking into account the peculiar factors which hold the Europeans back.

These factors are higher payments for landing airlines (a Transair costs £93 to land at an American airport and up to £246 at Heathrow, London), higher charges for fuel and oil, navigation charges (free in America) and the fact that European airlines have to fly over so many different frontiers, which inhibits efforts towards cost-cutting.

But probably the biggest disability which the Europeans have—and from which the Americans do not suffer—is a lack of flexibility in their manpower numbers and a virtual absence of any competition on their routes.

Unlike their transatlantic counterparts the European air-

lines are state-owned and find it difficult to shed staff in bad economic times. At the time of the merger of BOAC and BEA, British Airways was heavily over-staffed, but it was only through a ban on recruitment, early retirements and other normal wastage that the new joint airline could make even a start on getting its employee numbers down.

According to the most recent British Airways annual report, manpower at March 31, 1976, stood at 52,351, compared with 53,066 a year earlier.

Pooling of both departure times and route revenue is carried on between British Airways and many of the other airlines in Europe. While this may help the public by spacing out flights instead of bunching them all in the peak periods, it also leads to a lack of incentive in the airlines to do better.

In the United States, where such arrangements would not be allowed under law, as many as three big airlines compete fiercely with one another on the busiest routes, resulting in streamlined service to the public, and slim, sharp companies.

A further disability which British Airways has compared with the American and even European airlines is, according to its executives at the CAA fares inquiry, a lack of enthusiasm among British businessmen for getting up early to start their day.

The airline says that it has proved this point by scheduling services out of London to the Continent at about dawn, but it had to withdraw them because of poor patronage. The result is that European airlines, packed with zealous Euro-businessmen, and aided by the hour which they are ahead of during the winter, arrive at Heathrow in time to turn round and load up with British businessmen at the prime morning time for trips into Europe.

British Airways has the choice of leaving with its first services of the day at the same time, or accepting with its late departure, and less lucrative, departure time.

British Airways has produced its own sets of figures which show its productivity in a far better light than those tabled by the users' committee and the American magazine. In some parts, there are also lower at just over \$3,000 than all other big European airlines, although above Delta, one of the American "big five" airlines, which spends \$2,500 per departure.

British Airways also submitted that its costs were higher than those of American airlines owing to the factors mentioned earlier, such as higher fuel prices, plus the greater size of the United States travel market. But there were also higher, because of such items as the shorter operating day in Europe due to night jet bans and travel habits, better in-flight meals and higher agents' commissions, and because of greater job flexibility in the United States, a shorter working week in Britain and the greater use in the United States of part-time, temporary or student labour.

Even accepting all these factors, British Airways and the other European air carriers still appear to have a lot of slack which could be taken up in their level of productivity to the advantage of themselves, their taxpayer shareholders, and the public which travels with them.

Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Business Diary in Europe: London still charms the bankers

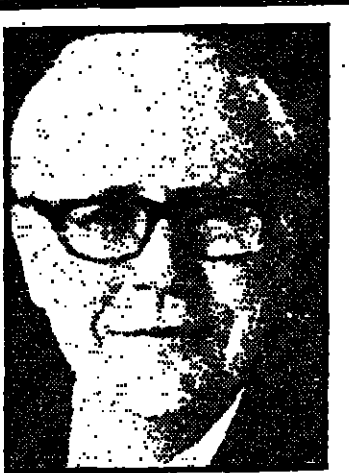
pular pastime among bankers to debate London can continue its position as the capital of the Euro-markets. Some worry level of personal tax, but corporate tax and out that a growing of new loan busting looked elsewhere at the problems, the continuing to flood it.

According to Noel Associates, inter- advisers to banks and institutions, another opened their doors in the only five—all of re relatively low key three offices—pulled brings the total of nks in London to 273. lux has been in three ases. The late sixties seventies witnessed a al of American banks, by a similar inflow pean banks.

the majors are now ablished and the arrivals are largely on emergent count- ous not to miss out- one, plus one or two s—Bayerische Vere- for instance—which erto resisted the pres-

ct is that wherever y book their loans for purposes, London's e of the market for al purposes remains ed.

other banks are lined ve into London this ilding two of the big- ean banks to have against the trend so Amsterdam-Rotterdam



Professor Joachim Zahn

By so rejigging his board, Daimler's supervisory board also took a decision of key importance for the company's future. It decided to appoint Werner Breitschwerdt (49) to the post of deputy managing board member and his apparent to Dr Hans Scherenberg. Daimler's research and development chief, who is due to retire at the end of this year.

Fair play

The avowed intention of Roy Jenkins to be a European rather than a British President of the European Commission in Brussels is being tested more quickly than he would have wished.

Only a fortnight or so after his arrival in the European capital, he is having to wrestle with the knotty problem of a flagrant violation of the EEC's fair competition policy by none other than his former Labour Cabinet colleague, John Silkin, the Minister of Agriculture.

The initial reaction of Jenkins and his colleagues to Silkin's brusque announcement of illegal subsidies for British pig farmers has been sharp and to the point. It's simply not cricket and something will have to be done about it.

Exactly what form the retri- bution will take still remains clear, but all eyes in Brussels are watching very closely to see how impeccable Jenkins's European credentials turn out to be.

A lot of lather

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Denis Healey, surprised the Electricity Council last week when he told industrialists in Birmingham that it had agreed, after consultations with the Electricity Council, to review its policy "of importing nearly all" the washing machines sold under its "Electra" label.

And no doubt questions were being asked in Pordenone, near Venice, the headquarters of Zanussi. If Healey was right, who would in future be supplying the Electricity Council, explained that it was no more than an Irish way of saying that the company has made its range more compact by dropping a number of models previously imported into Britain.

imported, most of them from Zanussi.

The Treasury and Nedo were convinced, however, that 120,000 machines were imported under contract with Zanussi, and sold under the "Electra" label, and that a great concession had been won from the council which had pledged to source over half its requirements from British manufacturers.

Last Friday, although both sides were claiming agreement, confusion still seemed to reign. The Treasury was saying that Healey should have made it clear he was referring to only one of the council's "own-brand automatic" machines being almost wholly imported.

For its part the council was sticking to its original figures. Perhaps it will all come out in the wash.

A press release from the organizers of the Ulster Motor Show, now being staged in the King's Hall, Belfast, is causing a lot of mirth in motor industry circles. It reads: "Fiat say that from October last year, all their models marketed in the United Kingdom will be more compact than before." It is the Italian answer to the problem which is currently exercising the minds of car manufacturers from Tokyo to Longbridge—how to make smaller cars without reducing profit margins? By shrinking existing models? Or by developing new models? It was no more than an Irish way of saying that the company has made its range more compact by dropping a number of models previously imported into Britain.

HILLARDS LIMITED

"A most successful half year"

Profits doubled to £1,000,000

RETAILERS OF FOODS & NON-FOODS

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Light report

Shipping Gulf tanker ended even more last week's vices being reported particularly involving the French oil company, Elf. Initially this company was reported to be involved in two vic fixtures but later information showed it to be only one.

Other tanker trades held little inspiration to offset the gloom of Gulf business. They came as the extremely hard times as the extremely cold weather in parts of America prevented grain cargoes from getting through to the loading ports.

David Robinson

Markets

European issues week to well below prices, raising a new turning point in the market. The yields for some of the most recent issues were pushed up by a few basis points, writes AP-Dew.

The market was unsettled by the fact that short-term rates would turn up substantial volume of a repaying about the first three weeks.

The yields for some of the most recent issues were pushed up by a few basis points, writes AP-Dew.

Prices (yields and premiums)

Security	Yield	Premium
10% 1981	10.15	0.15
10% 1982	10.15	0.15
10% 1983	10.15	0.15
10% 1984	10.15	0.15
10% 1985	10.15	0.15
10% 1986	10.15	0.15
10% 1987	10.15	0.15
10% 1988	10.15	0.15
10% 1989	10.15	0.15
10% 1990	10.15	0.15
10% 1991	10.15	0.15
10% 1992	10.15	0.15
10% 1993	10.15	0.15
10% 1994	10.15	0.15
10% 1995	10.15	0.15
10% 1996	10.15	0.15
10% 1997	10.15	0.15
10% 1998	10.15	0.15
10% 1999	10.15	0.15
10% 2000	10.15	0.15
10% 2001	10.15	0.15
10% 2002	10.15	0.15
10% 2003	10.15	0.15
10% 2004	10.15	0.15
10% 2005	10.15	0.15
10% 2006	10.15	0.15
10% 2007	10.15	0.15
10% 2008	10.15	0.15
10% 2009	10.15	0.15
10% 2010	10.15	0.15

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
Bank of England	14%
Bank of Ireland	14%
Bank of Scotland	14%
Bank of Wales	14%
Bank of Cyprus	14%
Bank of Greece	14%
Bank of Spain	14%
Bank of Portugal	14%
Bank of France	14%
Bank of Germany	14%
Bank of Italy	14%
Bank of Japan	14%
Bank of USA	14%
Bank of Canada	14%
Bank of Australia	14%
Bank of New Zealand	14%
Bank of South Africa	14%
Bank of Argentina	14%
Bank of Brazil	14%
Bank of Mexico	14%
Bank of Chile	14%
Bank of Peru	14%
Bank of Colombia	14%
Bank of Venezuela	14%
Bank of Ecuador	14%
Bank of Bolivia	14%
Bank of Paraguay	14%
Bank of Uruguay	14%
Bank of Cuba	14%
Bank of Haiti	14%
Bank of Dominican Republic	14%
Bank of Puerto Rico	14%
Bank of Guam	14%
Bank of Northern Mariana	14%
Bank of American Samoa	14%
Bank of Cook Islands	14%
Bank of Niue	14%
Bank of Tokelau	14%
Bank of Wallis and Futuna	14%
Bank of French Polynesia	14%
Bank of New Caledonia	14%
Bank of French Guiana	14%
Bank of Martinique	14%
Bank of Guadeloupe	14%
Bank of Réunion	14%
Bank of Mayotte	14%
Bank of French Southern Territories	14%
Bank of Overseas	14%

More share prices

The following will be added to the London and Regional Share Price List tomorrow and will be published daily in Business News:

Brit Funds
Commercial & Industrial
Dunlop

NIGHTINGALE & CO. LIMITED					
15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel: 01-638 8651					
Company	Price Friday	Change week	Gross Div(%)	Yld %	P/E
Asprey	30kd-1	4.2	14.1	5.9	
Asprey 181% CULS	108	-	18.5	17.1	
Asprey & Rhodes	28	+1	3.0	10.7	
Asprey 17% CULS	100kd-2	8.3	15.3	5.0	
Asprey 17% CULS	115	-	17.5	15.6	
Asprey Sykes	47	+1.2	2.2	4.7	5.5
Asprey	65	-	6.0	9.2	10.3
Asprey	209	+7	25.0	12.0	4.7
Asprey	13	-	12.0	22.2	
Asprey 12% CULS	54	-	6.1	11.7	6.5
Asprey Holdings	52	-	6.1	11.7	6.5
Asprey Alexander	68	+1	5.8	8.5	7.6

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 17. Dealings End, Jan 28. § Contango Day, Jan 31. Settlement Day, Feb 8
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.
(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

[illegible]

